

## Lebanon asks Belgium to take back waste

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon asked Belgium on Friday to take back two containers of hazardous waste shipped here earlier this month, a Foreign Ministry source said. Samir Khoury, the ministry's interim director-general, summoned Belgian Ambassador Denis Bannel to the Foreign Ministry to make the official request, the source said. "I will promptly send this request to Brussels and I can assure you that Belgium is determined to carry out its duties in this matter," the ambassador said after the meeting. Mr. Bannel said the waste was not toxic, but contained mixed plastic materials contaminated with chemicals. Fouad Hamdan, spokesman of the environmental group Greenpeace, said the waste was "hazardous and can not be recycled or destroyed in an environmentally sound way in Lebanon." "Also, as a matter of principle, waste should not be exported."

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## France deports 91 Africans, Indians

PARIS (R) — France has deported 91 Africans and Indians under a crackdown on illegal immigration, the interior ministry said on Friday. A charter plane left Paris airport on Thursday evening with 38 Malians, 20 Senegalese and 13 Moroccans aboard, a ministry statement said. The deportees included 24 people recently freed from jail as well as illegal immigrants. Another 20 Indian illegal immigrants had been sent home on scheduled flights earlier this week after officials uncovered a ring organising illegal immigration, it said. The plane to the three African states was the 31st such charter since Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré took office in May 1995 pledging a tough line. "Over the past 19 months, the policy of fighting illegal immigration is showing positive results," the ministry said. The ministry said France had deported 19,396 foreigners since Mr. Debré took office. So far this year, 1,083 employers of illegal workers and 35 clandestine workshops had been closed.

## Man arrested for selling stolen antiquities

ASSIUT (AP) — A cattle merchant has been arrested in this southern Egyptian city for allegedly selling rare antiquities stolen from an old Coptic church, police officials said Friday. The officials said Saber Al Genziri, 45, allegedly broke into the church in this city, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, by digging a 30-metre tunnel from a nearby abandoned house. He was detained late Thursday when he was seen trying to sell some of the stolen items, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They said he had been under observation for some time. The items pilfered from the church include 35 pieces dating to the early years of the Coptic Christian church in Egypt, which according to tradition, was founded by the Evangelist St. Mark in the first century after Christ. The man also extracted 22 rare pillars from the church, the officials added.

## Italian president begins Egypt visit

CAIRO (AP) — Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro arrived in Egypt on Friday for a two-day visit that was to take him to the war cemetery at Al Alamein and to Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Scalfaro was scheduled to visit the cemetery on Egypt's Mediterranean coast on Friday to pay tribute to the 3,241 Italian soldiers and 100 civilian engineers who were killed in the North African campaign in World War II. Mr. Scalfaro is to meet Mr. Mubarak on Saturday to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process and also will visit the Egyptian parliament. Italy is one of Egypt's most important trading partners and has been a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process. Italy's exports to Egypt totalled \$1.96 billion last year, while its imports were \$1.78 billion.

## 'Hot pursuit,' PNA arms, streets, markets and 'buffer zone' hold up Hebron deal

Arafat, Netanyahu could meet in Lisbon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that negotiations with the Palestinians on the West Bank town of Hebron were stalled on four key issues, according to Israeli military radio. He told a cabinet meeting that the main issue holding up an agreement was Israel's insistence on the right to pursue Palestinian suspects throughout Hebron after the Israeli army's withdrawal from most of the town, the radio reported. Mr. Netanyahu said conflict also centred on the type of weapons to be carried by Palestinian policemen in the town, the re-opening of a market and streets in the town centre close to the homes of Jewish settlers and the possible creation of a buffer zone between the settlers and Palestinian residents. Under the terms of 1995 autonomy accords, Israel was due to withdraw from 85 per cent of Hebron in March and hand the town over to Palestinian municipal control. However, Mr. Netanyahu has balked at implementing the pullback since taking office in June, and has demanded greater security guarantees for the 450 militant Jewish settlers living in the town surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

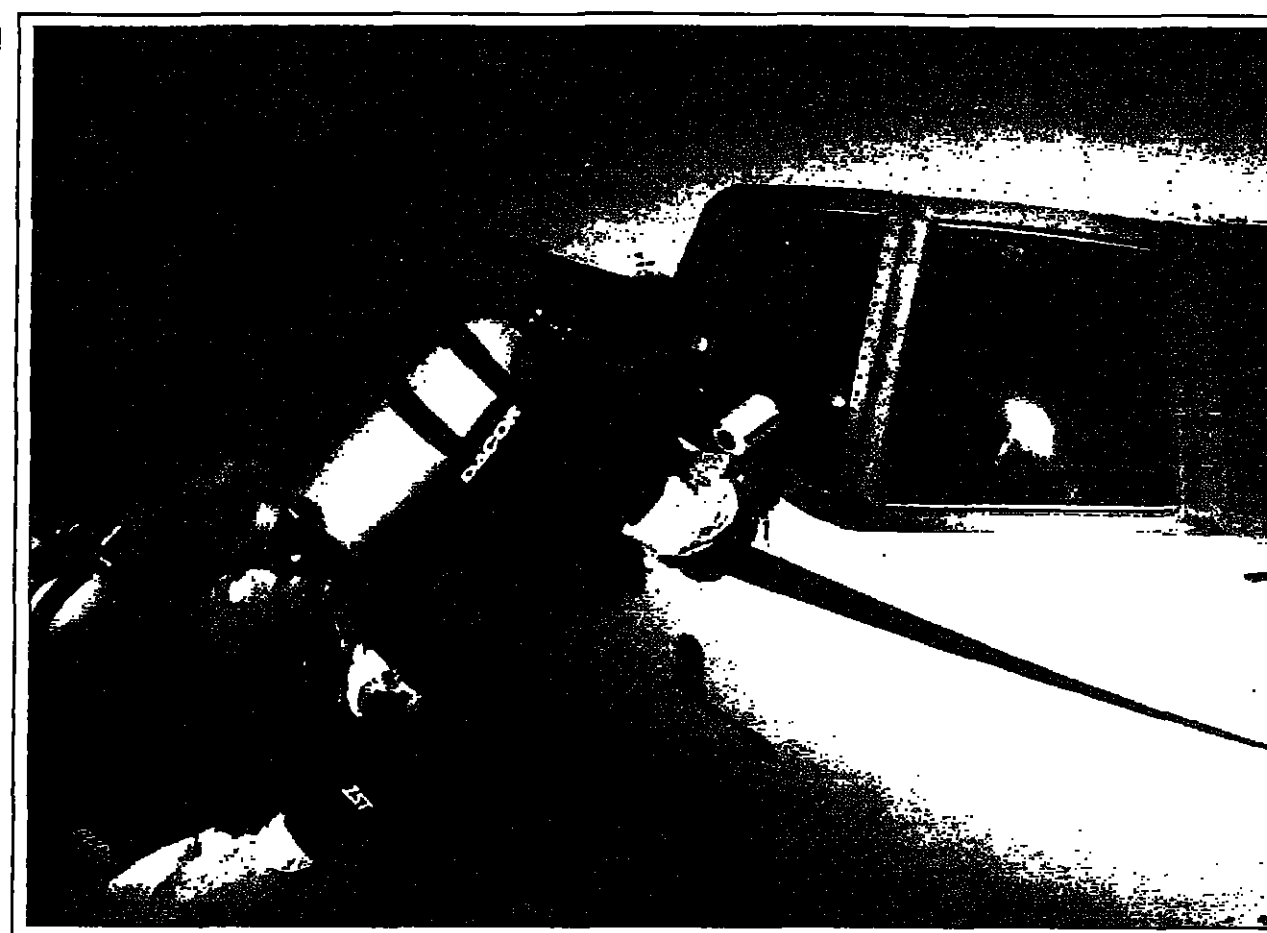
Crisis talks aimed at brokering a solution to the Hebron impasse were launched after September's wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence which left 85 people dead, but two months of negotiations have failed to secure a solution. Mr. Netanyahu on Thursday again accused the Palestinians of being solely responsible for the deadlock, while Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shifted the blame on to Israel. Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told the cabinet meeting that no agreement had been reached with the Palestinians on the opening of an airport in the south of the Gaza Strip because of disagreement over the level of Israeli security control over the proposed site. Military radio said Mr. Mordechai made the comment in reply to a question from Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani who expressed concern that the Palestinians could use the airport to bring arms into the Palestinian territories. Reports said that Mr. Arafat will travel to Portugal this week and may meet there with Mr. Netanyahu in the hopes of wrapping up agreement on Hebron, Israeli radio reported Friday. Palestinians in the West Bank, meanwhile, protested Friday saying Israel was confiscating land owned by Palestinians. The demonstrations followed sharp criticism against Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Israel radio said Mr. Arafat was to travel Sunday to Lisbon, where Mr. Netanyahu is to participate on Monday in an assembly on European cooperation. On Thursday Mr. Arafat said he was ready to meet with Mr. Netanyahu "with pleasure, any time."

## League holds urgent talks on Israel's policy on settlements today

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League will hold an emergency meeting on Sunday to discuss Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land, a Palestinian official said on Friday. "Palestine requested the meeting to put in front of the Arab countries the danger of the settlement issue," Mohammad Subeih, Palestinian representative to the Cairo-based Arab League, told Reuters. "Land is the basis of peace. The settlement policy destroys the peace process. It is a dangerous issue that will push the region to uneasiness," he added. Mr. Subeih said the meeting would be on the level of permanent representatives or ambassadors to the Arab League. The government daily newspaper Al Ahrum said on Friday Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sent an "urgent message" to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to warn him that new settlement activity on occupied Arab land threatens the Jewish state's peace agreements with its neighbours. "The settlement policy is a racist one. This has been emphasised by the Israeli prime minister's visit to a settlement (this week), his affirmation that settlements will continue and the astronomical amounts of money the Israeli government spends on settlements," Mr. Subeih said. Mr. Netanyahu has enraged Arabs with his decision to lift a freeze imposed by the Jewish state's former Labour government on settlement building. He paid his first official visit to a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Tuesday in a show of defiance to Palestinians opposed to his policy of expanding such outposts. The United States on Tuesday delivered its sharpest attack yet on Netanyahu's settlement policy, saying his trip to one such outpost was "not useful and not constructive." A United Nations committee adopted a resolution on Wednesday demanding the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities. "President Mubarak concentrated in his message to Israel's prime minister on the danger of new settlement activity by Israel and the expansion of existing settlements on any occupied Arab land," Al Ahrum said. "It is such activity that destroys trust between Israel and its Arab neighbours and encourages the violation and the lack of respect of peace agreements," it added.

## Bundestag backs Bonn Iran policy

BONN (Agencies) — The German government won support in the Bundestag (parliament) Friday for its policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran, defending it against an opposition attempt to toughen up Bonn's stance. The Christian Union and Free Democrat parties rejected a Social Democrat-Greens call to end German cooperation with the Iranian secret services, suspected of assassinating Iranian opposition figures abroad. Instead the ruling parties moved their own resolution condemning Iranian threats of retaliation, prompted when German prosecutors accused Iranian state leaders of approving the 1992 Berlin murders of four Iranian Kurds. The government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl was careful to avoid repetition of a fiasco last year, when its Iran policy was disavowed by members of parliament of the ruling parties voting with the opposition. At the same time, Bonn's policy of not isolating the Islamic regime in Tehran has been officially rebaptised as one of "active influence" rather than "critical dialogue." Unchanged in content, the name of the policy has been changed because of the old one's "negative connotations" and the misunderstanding it had caused, according to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and his spokesmen.



UNDERWATER WRECKAGE: Divers shine their torches into the cockpit of the crashed Ethiopian jet in search of bodies. The Ethiopian airline Boeing 767 crashed into the Indian Ocean off the Comoros Islands Nov. 23 after being hijacked from Ethiopia. Fifty of the 175 passengers survived the crash including the pilot (Reuters photo)

## Jordan reaffirms solidarity with Palestinians, pledges continued support for their struggle

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has reiterated Jordan's solidarity with the Palestinian people and support for their struggle to regain their legitimate rights and the Kingdom's continued quest for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The King also sent a message to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Thursday. The message was delivered by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who reiterated after talks with Mr. Arafat that Jordan stood firmly behind the Palestinian quest for their rights and that the Kingdom would do everything possible to put the peace process back on track. The King, in a message to the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, said Jordan was totally committed to peace which must be based on justice and the principles of the United Nations. He said Jordan believes that the peace process is the only path for the peoples of this region to attain stability and security despite the difficulties and obstacles. He stressed that the Kingdom will continue to search for a comprehensive peace that would benefit the coming generations. He said that no one has the right to deprive the Palestinians of their basic rights, including their human rights, adding that agreements concluded so far on the path of peace should be implemented. He called on the world community to help achieve this objective in order to ensure lasting settlement. The King said that any changes in the agreements would make the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians void of content. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali issued a statement on the eve of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Friday. "This annual commemorative event provides an opportunity to remind the international community that the question of Palestine, which is at the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved despite the many efforts that have been made over the years," said Mr. Ghali. "The resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations has been an encouraging development. It is essential that the parties should abide by agreements already reached and make tangible progress towards a comprehensive just and lasting settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," he added. He voiced the U.N. commitment to supporting the peace process and said U.N. agencies would continue to provide all possible expertise and assistance in humanitarian relief and in the fields of economic and social development in order to contribute to create the necessary conditions for peace. To mark the occasion, the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia holds today a special ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre in conjunction with the Palestinian embassy in Amman. In Jericho on Thursday, Prime Minister Kabariti met Mr. Arafat and conveyed to him the message from King Hussein dealing with the developments in the peace process. Mr. Kabariti stressed Jordan's continued backing to the Palestinian leadership in its endeavours to reach a just and lasting peace. Mr. Kabariti, who was accompanied on the visit by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali, told a press conference after the meeting that Jordan would do everything in its power to give momentum to the peace process. "The Israeli leadership should realise the continued expansion of the Jewish settlements and the continued blockade of the Palestinian lands and the starving of the Palestinian people threaten the peace process," said Mr. Kabariti. "The situation is critical," he said, warning that "further delay in reaching an agreement could jeopardise the whole peace process."

"We are not only concerned over the peace process, but we also feel that the peace process is going through a very critical stage requiring efforts from all parties and the world community to salvage it," added the prime minister. Referring to U.S.-European efforts in this respect, Mr. Kabariti expressed hope that international cooperation would have beneficial effects on the situation. He said that Jordan maintains constant contact with the Israeli government to help save the peace process from collapse. He expressed hope that the Israeli leaders would stop issuing threatening statements about reoccupying the Palestinian territories. He also noted that the two sides were in contact to remove the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of trade, adding that it was regrettable that Israeli circles maintain that the Palestinian lands should serve as a captive market for Israeli products.

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## U.N. to inspect Iraq's borders for imports

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. experts are Saturday to inspect the Iraqi-Turkish border post of Zakho in the Kurdish-held north that is to be used for imports under the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations. The three experts from Lloyd's Register of London were first to hold more talks with port authorities in Umm Qasr on the Gulf in southern Iraq before returning to Baghdad on Friday, said Ivor Leavers, the head of the group. Mr. Leavers said they would inspect the customs facilities in Zakho the next day. The team will later inspect Trebil, western Iraq, on the border with Jordan that is also to be used for imports of humanitarian supplies once Baghdad makes its return to the international oil market under the oil-for-food accord. Iraq on Monday informed the United Nations it had finally accepted the U.N. terms for monitoring the accord signed on May 20, under Security Council Resolution 986. Decisions have yet to be taken on where to house the inspectors while a pumping and metering station on the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline has to be repaired, U.N. officials said. Iraq expects repairs to be done by Dec. 5. U.N. diplomats in New York estimate the first oil shipments will begin in mid-December. While Lloyd's will supply experts to oversee the delivery of humanitarian aid, the Netherlands company Saybolt is to provide

monitors for the first international oil shipments since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Under the deal, Iraq can export \$1 billion of oil every three months in return for food and medicine, but some of the money will be used to defray U.N. costs and go to paying war reparations stemming from the invasion. The Iraqi News Agency has said Baghdad would export 450,000 barrels of oil a day through the pipeline to the Turkish port of Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean and 350,000 barrels daily via the Gulf terminal at Mina Al Bakr. However, under current high prices Iraq would be allowed to export only around 500,000 a day. The United Nations plans

to deploy a total of some 200 international observers and inspectors to ensure the agreement is properly implemented, with around 30 Lloyd's staff to watch imports. Fourteen employees from Saybolt will examine oil exports, while 151 inspectors will supervise the distribution of humanitarian goods inside Iraq and eight others will be based at U.N. headquarters in New York. U.N. oil experts are expected in Iraq on Tuesday to inspect the pipeline from Kirkuk in the north to Yumurtalik as well as the Mina Al Bakr terminal, according to Baghdad. The United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

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## Perry says Stealth fighters to stay in Kuwait as deterrent

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The United States has decided not to remove eight F-117A "Stealth" fighters from Kuwait and will keep them there as a message to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein not to invade Kuwait again, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said on Friday.

"We were considering redeploying them but we have decided to leave them here for an indefinite period of time," Mr. Perry said during a visit.

The jets were rushed to Kuwait in September in a confrontation between the United States and Iraq over attacks by Iraqi military forces against Kurds in northern Iraq. They had been expected to return to the United States early next month.

But Mr. Perry told a group of U.S. soldiers after talks with Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah that he had informed the Kuwaiti officials that the radar-avoiding jets would stay as part of "a message to Saddam Hussein don't even think about coming back."

A U.S.-led military coalition defeated Iraqi forces in the 1991 Gulf war and drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Mr. Perry, mid-way through a globe-circling trip that will take him to Qatar and Saudi Arabia later in the day, said that the United States would remove 4,200 American troops from Kuwait by Christmas but would maintain 1,800 Marines aboard ships offshore. Three thousand of those U.S. army troops were sent to Kuwait in September along with the "Stealth" fighters.

Mr. Perry is on a tour of Gulf Arab states to review the security of American troops in the region, where he said they come under threat on a weekly basis. Saudi and U.S. intelligence services have just "averted what would have been some sort of a terrorist tentacle action," Mr. Perry told journalists on the plane which brought him to Kuwait late Thursday. Mr. Perry said the Saudi authorities made several arrests but declined to give details for "security reasons."

U.S. and Saudi intelligence services are in close cooperation, he said, adding that American personnel in the Gulf kingdom were always on a "high threat alert" because of a constant stream of anonymous threats against U.S. targets.

U.S. forces receive "threats, warnings like that at least once a week," said the defence secretary.

"It's both an easy and cheap way of harassing both the Saudi government and the U.S.," he said. "But even though they may be just harassment, we take each of them pretty seriously."

Nineteen U.S. nationals were killed and hundreds of other people injured in a bombing at a U.S. air force dormitory in Khobar, eastern Saudi Arabia, on June 25.

In Kuwait, Mr. Perry visited Camp Doha where 5,000 U.S. troops are preparing to return home in December after exercises in the desert.

The defence secretary is also to visit United Arab Emirates. The last stop was added at the request of President Bill Clinton. Mr. Perry said.

He said the tour was also aimed at reassuring U.S. allies following Mr. Clinton's reelection this month of "the continuity of American national security objectives in foreign policy in the Gulf area."

It was "probably particularly important in Kuwait," he added. Mr. Perry said the United States had detected a "fairly extensive training exercise" in central Iraq. "We watch that very closely. Maybe it's just routine, maybe it's a prelude to something," he said.

On Saturday, Mr. Perry is to visit the two bases outside Riyadh which were hastily set up in June to improve security for U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, where Washington has 5,000 soldiers. Mr. Perry's visit to the Gulf — where the United States has a total of 27,000 troops, 15,000 of them on ships — is part of a world tour which has already taken him to Bosnia. On Monday, he leaves for Japan.

While Israeli-Kurdish ties were known before, Shlomo Nakdimon's book — "A Hopeless Hope — The Rise and Fall of the Israeli-Kurdish Alliance" — provides the first testimony by five directors of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, the author said.

The book was to be excerpted in the Yedioth Ahronot daily, and Mr. Nakdimon agreed to discuss some of its revelations with the Associated Press on Thursday.

Mr. Nakdimon said he found that Mossad maintained a tiny mission — never numbering more than 15 — in the Kurdish region beginning in 1965. It was Mossad that persuaded the Shah of Iran to let Israeli ship arms to the Kurds through Iran and to provide Iranian artillery disguised as Kurds, he said.

Mr. Nakdimon said he interviewed over 70 Israelis who served on the Israeli mission at different times. They included Mossad agents, army officers and doctors. They were under strict orders not to get directly involved in the fighting, he said.

But one Israeli officer, Tzuri Saguy, actually commanded Kurdish troops who ambushed Iraqi troops on two occasions, in 1966 and 1974. He trained the Kurds in the use of Israeli-supplied guns, mortars and guided anti-tank missiles, drew up their battle plans and directed them from the rear.

"The big field hospital set up by Israel saved thousands of Kurdish lives," Mr. Nakdimon said. The doctors and Israeli male nurses treated the wounded and trained Kurdish medical personnel.



**HOPES:** An Iraqi woman shops at a market in Baghdad on Friday amid hopes high among Iraqis that the oil-for-food deal Iraq has reached with the United Nations (see page 1) would help alleviate their suffering as a result of the international sanctions against their country (Reuters photo)

## Mossad played a key role in Kurdish rebellion in Iraq, Israeli's book reveals

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel played a key role in the Kurds' pesky but failed 1963-1975 rebellion against Iraq, providing military guidance and medical services and arranging Iranian support, according to a new book by an Israeli journalist.

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"The big field hospital set up by Israel saved thousands of Kurdish lives," Mr. Nakdimon said. The doctors and Israeli male nurses treated the wounded and trained Kurdish medical personnel.

Kurdish fighters were also sent to Israel for officer courses.

The book gives a fascinating picture of relations between the Israelis and Kurdish leader Mullah Mustafa Barzani, including many details unknown to the Israeli public, said Amasia Baram, a Haifa university expert on Iraq.

Mr. Nakdimon said Mr. Barzani had to withstand opposition by devout Muslims in his ranks to the secret alliance with Israel. He ordered security around the Israelis tightened in 1966 after an Iraqi pilot defected to Israel with a MiG-21 jet fighter and there were fears the Iraqis might try to abduct them for a trade.

Mr. Nakdimon said the Iraqis knew of the Israeli presence and quoted one top Iraqi official as saying that "a second Israel is being established in Iraq."

The book traces the American involvement in the rebellion after 1972, when President Nixon visited Iran and agreed to the Shah's request to supply arms to the Kurds.

During the rebellion, the Kurds managed to inflict heavy damage on Iraqi oil installations, kill thousands of Iraqi troops and destroy scores of tanks and some 20 fighter-jets.

But the effort collapsed in 1975 when the Shah withdrew Iranian support after Iraq agreed to undisputed Iranian control of the Shatt Al Arab waterway between the two countries.

The Israelis had to evacuate in hours, and the collapse caused a major reexamination of Israeli policy.

"It showed that national minorities cannot withstand a regular army for long unless they are backed by a powerful neighbour," Mr. Nakdimon said. Israel also learned that aid to insurgents may start on a small scale, but inevitably grows, he added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran gets first woman mayor

TEHRAN (AFP) — A woman has been named mayor of a district of the Iranian capital for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, officials said Friday. Zahra Sadre Azam Nuri, who is in her 40s, was made mayor of a borough in the residential north of Tehran, a city of 12 million people that is divided into 20 boroughs. The 10 women deputies in the Iranian parliament, in a letter published in newspapers on Friday, welcomed the appointment by the mayor of Tehran, Gholamhossein Karbaschi. "This appointment shows the abilities and the success of women in assuming administrative responsibility in an Islamic society," they said. The mayor of the whole of Tehran, who is himself appointed by the interior minister, is in charge of naming the 20 district mayors.

### Israel and Niger restore ties

NIAMEY (AFP) — Israel and Niger have restored diplomatic relations after a break of more than two decades, in a move which Niger said was prompted by the "momentum" for peace in the Middle East. The accord was formalised Thursday in West Jerusalem by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and his Niger counterpart Andre Salifou. In a broadcast interview, government spokesman Noussa Ousseini, said Niger had taken the decision to resume ties in response to the "momentum for peace between the belligerents" in the Middle East. Niger, 85 per cent of whose 8.5 million citizens are Muslims, broke off relations with Israel after the war of 1973 in solidarity with Arab states. "These reasons have ceased to exist. We have to review the general situation, dispassionately and objectively," Mr. Ousseini said. Niger would nonetheless "continue to support the Palestinians in their battle for their inalienable rights," he said. The present secretary-general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Hamid Algabid is from Niger.

### Iraqi cited in marriage of underage daughters

LINCOLN (AP) — An Iraqi mother has been cited for her part in allegedly forcing her two teen-age girls to marry. Salima Al Saidy, 33, was cited Wednesday for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The charge is not considered a serious crime. The girls' father, Salem Al Saidy, 39, previously was charged with child abuse, which also carries light penalties. An Iraqi refugee, he has said he was not aware Nebraska law requires a minimum marriage age of 18. He was freed on bond and ordered to have no contact with his daughters, 13 and 15. They were placed in foster care with a Muslim family. Their husbands, who also are Iraqi refugees, are charged with first-degree sexual assault of a child, felonies that could bring up to 50 years in prison. Latif Al Hussani, 34, and Majed Al Tamimy, 28, were released on bond Wednesday.

### Turkey extends emergency rule

ANKARA (AP) — Parliament on Thursday extended an emergency rule once again in Turkey's southeast despite the government's promise to lift it. In August the Islamic-led coalition pushed through parliament measures tightening security in the region, where Kurdish rebels are fighting for autonomy, in preparation towards a total lifting of the rule. But the government proposed an extension Thursday following the advice of a high-level Security Council including military's top brass. The rule will be in effect in nine cities for four more months, beginning Nov. 30. It was lifted in the city of Mardin, where the activity of the autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels reportedly decreased.

### Bashir vows no return to partisanship

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese President General Omar Al Bashir vowed on Thursday that his Islamic government would never allow political parties to return to power. "The banner of Islam which the martyrs have defended will not fall," Gen. Bashir said in a fiery speech delivered to a rally here in commemoration of those killed in the long-running civil war in south Sudan. "The government will honour the souls of the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the nation and the faith," he said in the speech broadcast on state television. Gen. Bashir also accused opposition militants based in the Eritrean capital Asmara of placing themselves at the disposal of Eritrean President Assafaworki and south Sudan rebel leader John Garang. "The partisans and sectarian leaders have sold themselves in Asmara to Afeworki, to the masters of Afeworki and to John Garang for a handful of derachim (money)," Gen. Bashir said. "Partisanship and sectarianism will never return to Sudan," he vowed.

## London architect recounts Cairo nightmare

### The Sunday Express

IMAGINE arriving at an airport thousands of miles from home and being arrested at the passport control desk by secret police. The charge — murdering the country's president. Think of then being thrown in a cockroach-infested jail, terrified and helpless, not knowing the reason for your plight is that an international terrorist has stolen your identity. The ultimate traveller's nightmare became horrifying reality for a London architect when he arrived at Cairo airport last summer at the start of a family holiday.

Mahmoud Abdul Kader, who holds dual British and Egyptian nationality, had taken his son Kareem, 12, to visit his grandparents. But as he handed over his passport he was startled to see the words wanted urgently flash on the screen.

Separated from his son, terrified Abdul Kader was kept in custody overnight.

In the morning he was handcuffed and transferred to the notorious El Khalefah prison — home to some of Egypt's most violent killers and thieves. "The guards pushed around 100 of us into a filthy dungeon cell little more than 10 metres long. It was known as The Oven," Mr. Abdul Kader recalls.

"There was a rotten smell of dead bodies and there were cockroaches everywhere. The heat was unbearable. I thought I was going to die."

"I had to bribe the jailers to do everything from giving me food to loosening the handcuffs around my wrists. I spent around £1,000 on bribes but I think would have been killed otherwise." For 11 days secret police dragged Mr. Abdul Kader to interrogations around Cairo, attempting to implicate him in the plot which ended with the assassination of President Sadat 15 years ago.

On the 12th day they admitted it was a case of mistaken identity. "The head of the police department looked at me and laughed: 'It is not you I wanted. The other person who is using your name is wanted for killing President Sadat. You are lucky the mistake has been realised. The sentence is hanging.'"

Some 48 hours later, after being thrown out on to the street, Mr. Abdul Kader and Kareem were on a flight back to England.

Only now does this quietly-spoken worker for Harrow Council feel able to speak about his ordeal.

"I witnessed horrors I never thought could exist in this day and age," he said. "My basic human rights stood for nothing. When I arrived home I was like a walking corpse — moving, but dead inside."

"Not once have I received an apology or an explanation. I am a changed man. I have lost my faith in human nature."

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Issam Al Asmar .....890504  
Dr. Khalid Klob .....816715  
Dr. Osama Al Hussein .....847289  
Dr. Nidal Al Asad .....751672  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdous pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asma pharmacy .....637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu .....281484  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Nabil Al Safarini .....901322  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre .....636381

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:55 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
09:55 .....Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 .....Columbo (RJ)  
15:40 .....London (RJ)  
16:20 .....Cairo (RJ)  
19:35 .....Vienna (RJ)  
21:30 .....Paris (RJ)  
06:45 .....Bangkok, Singapore (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 .....Aqaba, Paris, Bangkok (RJ)  
11:05 .....Vienna (RJ)  
11:30 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:00 .....Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:15 .....London (RJ)  
12:15 .....Cairo (RJ)  
17:40 .....Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
20:00 .....Bombay (RJ)  
20:05 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:30 .....Lamaca (RJ)  
20:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
23:55 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in fils per kg  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....550/550  
Banana (imported) .....800/500  
Cabbage .....80/40  
Carrot .....280/150  
Cauliflower .....160/40  
Cucumber (large) .....120/70  
Cucumber (small) .....180/150  
Eggplant .....120/60  
Garlic .....750/550  
Grapes .....340/300  
Lemon .....380/200  
Marrow (large) .....120/100  
Marrow (small) .....180/150  
Onion (green) .....220/120  
Onion (dry) .....150/80  
Orange .....550/400  
Pear .....650/500  
Pepper (hot) .....250/180  
Pepper (sweet) .....200/120  
Potato .....310/180  
Spinach .....180/100  
String Bean .....400/300  
Tomato .....180/240

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel. 773111-19  
**PROGRAMME TWO**  
14:05 The Adventures of Mickey and Donald  
14:30 .....Circus  
15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Mille Villages  
15:30 .....Fete des Bebes  
16:00 .....Sports — Gillette  
16:30 .....Chris Cross  
17:00 .....News Flash  
17:02 .....Futures  
17:15 .....Drama — Blue Heelers  
18:00 .....Serie — Jack  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Magazine — Ziva  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder  
20:00 .....Doc. — Gardens of the World  
20:30 .....Prism  
21:10 .....Lois and Clarke  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:25 .....Best Seller  
23:15 Feature Film: "The Last Sunset"

**PRAYER TIMES**  
04:50 .....Fajr  
06:12 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:24 .....Dhuhr  
14:14 .....Asr  
16:36 .....Maghreb  
17:57 .....Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifelh. Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH** Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 837126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

**WEATHER**  
Bulliten supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with moderate weather conditions prevailing and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

**ROYAL WINGS (RW) Flights**  
20:30 .....Aqaba (RW)

**HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**  
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.



## Operation Oryx' heads for Syrian reserve

By Tanya Habbouja  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Eight Arabian Oryx left the Shaumari Nature Reserve Thursday on route to a new life in Syria where the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) hopes that the transfer will boost environmental ties between both countries, as well as ensure the continued speciation of the desert antelope.

The Shaumari Reserve, established in 1975, now boasts the largest oryx herd in the world, having bred the original four oryx contributed from the San Diego Wild Park in 1978 to a healthy 200.

Due to excessive hunting and over-grazing, the oryx was brought to the edge of extinction, and was actually extinct in the wild when the last three were shot in 1972 in Saudi Arabia.

The demise of the oryx, brought about international concern and was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the RSCN, said Anis Moasher, president of the RSCN.

"I feel as if this donation to the Syrians will confirm the survival of this precious animal, and will continue its return to its traditional areas throughout the region," said Khaloudun Kiwan, manager of the RSCN.

The Shaumari Reserve, established in 1975, now boasts the largest oryx herd in the world, having bred the original four oryx contributed from the San Diego Wild Park in 1978 to a healthy 200.

RSCN reintroduction unit. The oryx destination is to the newly established Palmyra Reserve, where they will form the nucleus of a new breeding herd, an operation that has already been successfully carried out with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman.

"The Arabian oryx is the first species ever to be saved from extinction in the wild," said Anis Moasher.

"Operation Oryx" has received international attention, and Dr. Edward Allonby, veterinarian surgeon from the U.K. Overseas Development Programme said, "I'm encouraged by these developments as the chances increase for one species, this brings about the possibility of other wild life making a come back, like insects and rodents, which will restore the eco-system to health."

The Syrian-bound oryx were sedated and crated early Thursday afternoon into a truck that would carry them to their new home, while Shaumari Reserve Manager Othman Mirza looked on smiling.

"I feel as if I am giving away my daughter...I am happy of the opportunity with the Syrians but feel sadness like I am losing family members," he said. "The Palmyra Reserve is



A ranger Thursday demonstrates how the oryx is horned in towards the transport container used to move the desert antelope to its new home in the Palmyra Reserve in Syria (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

very similar to Shaumari with its excellent vegetation and water supply. I feel the animals will thrive there," said Ahmed Kilan, a Syrian veterinarian sent to help the transfer.

The RSCN will help supervise the new breeding programme, and plans on

continued training services between both countries, said Khaloudun Kiwan.

"As I observe the oryx leaving, I can only remember when we first struggled to create the RSCN, and now we are successfully saving the oryx," said Anis Moasher.

## Jordan, Israel to eliminate 'back-to-back' transport system

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Jordan and Israel will do away with the back-to-back system of transport for goods moving between the two countries, replacing it with a direct, door-to-door system. However, the change in the transport agreement will not apply to vehicles delivering goods to the Palestinian self-rule territories, an Israeli embassy spokesperson said Wednesday.

Israeli embassy spokesperson Shalom Tourge-man said that the new system could be operational sometime next month.

A sub-committee of the Jordanian-Israeli joint transport committee took the decision last week to replace the inefficient back-to-back system of transport after months of complaints from Jordanian exporters.

According to Mr. Tourge-man, Israel will retain the right to inspect vehicles at the border, but, he said, "it

is unlikely that this will happen."

"Jordanian security will assume responsibility for inspecting all vehicles before they exit Jordan," he said. "We are confident in (Jordan's) security procedures."

Jordanian businessmen have said, since the implementation of the transport agreement in June, that the back-to-back system — a measure insisted upon by Israel when signing the transport accord — was an obstacle to bilateral trade and have said that its continuation made trade impractical.

The system requires that consignments of goods moving from Jordan to Israel or the Palestinian self-rule areas be unloaded from Jordanian vehicles, inspected by Israeli security and reloaded onto Israeli or Palestinian vehicles before continuing to their destinations. The only exception was for Jordanian trucks loaded with export goods destined for Israeli sea

ports.

Jordanian officials and businessmen alike claimed that, although the security check was not supposed to take more than a couple of hours, Jordanian vehicles sat at bridges for hours and, in some cases, days.

The system also brought exporters considerable added expense, including a crossing fee (approximately JD18.75 at the King Hussein crossing and JD 27.25 at the Sheikh Hussein crossing), a per tonne unloading and reloading fee, and fines imposed on export companies whose vehicles were delayed at the border all of which made Jordanian products less competitive, they said.

A bigger concern for Jordan, however, is its ability to trade with the Palestinians.

That issue, Mr. Tourge-man said, has not been ignored or forgotten by Israeli officials.

"The door-to-door system is not yet applicable to the territories for security

reasons," he said. "But it will be discussed in one of the next meetings of the committee."

According to Mr. Tourge-man, the door to door system "does not contradict" the back to back system.

"We do not allow Israeli vehicles to enter the territories either," he said.

He did not say how soon he expected a new agreement on transport to the self-rule areas to be reached.

Earlier this month, Israeli Minister of Finance Dan Meridor said that he expected substantial improvement in the flow of goods between Jordan and Israel as soon as Israel installs U.S.-supplied security equipment at the crossings. The equipment, which includes a drive-through weapons and explosive detector, would enable a vehicle to be screened in less than 5 minutes.

Jordanian officials were unavailable for comment.

## Delegation studies economic prospects in Georgia

By Sacha Baggili  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Jordanian businessmen are convinced that the former Soviet republic of Georgia offers investment and trade opportunities from which Jordan can benefit, a Georgian official has said.

Head of the Trade and Economic Representation of Georgia in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon Vasily Chichinadze said that this positive assessment of trade potential with Georgia was made during a visit which a delegation of Jordanian businessmen made to Adjara, one of the three autonomous states within Georgia earlier this month.

He told the Jordan Times over the weekend that the visit aimed at assessing the potential benefits of trade agreements between his country and Jordan as well as exploring prospects for opening a new market for the Arab World in general.

The Jordanian private sector delegation included Tashin Ammouri, representing oil and technical industries, Fares Madanat, representing building contracting industries and Suhail Khatib, representing the banking and investment sectors.

"Natural resources of minerals, metals, wood, natural gas and oil are plentiful but are not being fully utilised due to the lack of technical expertise in a country which only gained political independence from the Soviet Union in 1991," he stated.

After meeting with Chairman of the Adjara Autonomous Republic Aslan Abashidze and other officials, the delegation signed an agreement under which it will be authorised to document and conclude trade deals, loans and investment agreements on behalf of Georgia.

Although discussions during the visit focused on the Adjara economy, it also addressed the economic potential of Georgia as a whole.

"I am planning to take a larger delegation of Arab businessmen to the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, where we will meet with President Eduard Shevardnadze. From there it is hoped that

economic ties can be strengthened as a foundation for political relations," Mr. Chichinadze said.

The establishment in Amman of the Trade and Economic Representation of the Republic of Georgia signifies a first step towards the creation of formal diplomatic ties for Georgia in the Middle East, said Mr. Chichinadze.

He said that although full ambassadorial and diplomatic status has not yet been granted to Georgia in Jordan, the trade representation is the first official office for Georgia in the Middle East.

Jordan was chosen as the base for this trade mission in recognition of "its respect for democracy, the open nature of its economy, its sound banking system and its accommodating communication and transport systems," Mr. Ammouri, one of the three Jordanian businessmen who travelled to Adjara, told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Ammouri said Georgia and the Arab World can cooperate on exploiting materials such as marble, which is available in an endless variety of colours but is not fully exploited due to the lack of appropriate technology.

Mr. Chichinadze also highlighted the advantages businessmen with a foothold in Georgia can have due to the country's geographic location. "The country is situated in the centre of the Caucasus, has access to the Black Sea," Mr. Chichinadze said.

"Of specific advantage to the economy of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara is the Black Sea port in its capital city, Batumi, which is also used for trade by other states in the region which have no outlet of their own along this coastline," Mr. Ammouri added.

In addition it can be said that the port is a great asset to Georgia as it is not afflicted with problems such as freezing over or overly shallow waters as can be said of other Black Sea ports as Suchumi or Sochi.

While in Georgia, the delegation also discussed the possibility of establishing a joint venture between Georgia and Jordan to manufacture

glass for the purpose of double glazing for windows and doors.

"The Georgians have an interest in supplying this commodity" while simultaneously "such an arrangement would facilitate profit for Jordan," Mr. Chichinadze told the Jordan Times.

Georgian officials and the Jordanian delegation also agreed to explore further possibilities for industrial cooperation, said Mr. Chichinadze.

He also stated that another profitable area in need of development, which could prove advantageous to Arab investors, is the tourist industry.

He said that "Adjara's location, bordering Turkey, its Black Sea coastline, unspoiled beaches and beautiful climate make it a natural tourist destination."

He said that although "Adjara was named the 'paradise of the Soviet Union' during Soviet rule, its facilities were neglected during this period. Joint ventures in upgrading and modernising hotels and restaurants would guarantee a profit."

Although the most significant categories of natural resources, which have not yet been fully exploited in Georgia, are oil and natural gas, the existence of metals, such as iron, aluminium and gold, offer international companies access to commercial quantities of resources if investments are made to finance their mining.

Bilateral arrangements between Jordan and Georgia covered during the delegation's visit, stipulated that the import requirements of Georgia, which could be provided by Jordan and other countries in the region, include household and electrical equipment, clothing and certain food commodities.

Following the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, most of the former Soviet republics have adopted capitalist or semi-capitalist systems.

However, as Mr. Ammouri told the Jordan Times, "these states have found it difficult to organise their own economies as completely independent entities due to decades of participation as mere fragments of the former U.S.S.R. economy."

## Business delegation heads for talks in Iraq

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — A 25-member business delegation led by Bassam Saket, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordanian Cement Factories Company left Friday for Baghdad on a three-day visit described by Dr. Saket as a further show of solidarity on the part of Jordan towards the Iraqi people.

The delegation, which represents the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), groups' prominent representatives of the textiles, paints, chemicals, iron, pharmaceutical, food, plastics, veterinary medicine and vegetable oil industries, will visit various Iraqi institutions and meet with government officials and business community leaders, according to Dr. Saket.

Prior to his departure, he said the delegation is carrying a gift of medicines and agricultural pesticides to the Iraqi people as a show of support from Jordanian citizens.

According to Dr. Saket, the delegation will hold talks at the Iraqi ministries of Industry and Trade, Finance, and Health and the Central Bank as well as the Chambers of Commerce.

Iraqi Minister of Trade Hamed Yousef Hamadi was quoted as saying that the port of Aqaba will serve as one of three main sources for Iraq in importing its food and medicines in implementation of the UN-Iraq oil-for-food deal.

An Iraqi government official had said Baghdad was set to resume oil exports on Dec. 10 initially at the rate of 500,000 barrels a day following the UN green light for the oil-for-food agreement.

Mr. Hamadi said Iraq intends to rely on the port of Aqaba for its imports of food and medicines purchased from Europe and African markets, while other imports will come through Turkey and the Iraqi port of Qasr on the Arabian Gulf.

Most of Iraq's imports during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war came through the port of Aqaba.

## Visiting German official to review sponsored projects

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — A visiting senior official from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation will hold talks today with government officials to review German-financed projects in the Kingdom, German Embassy sources said Friday.

Herbert Zahlmann, who Thursday met with HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, announced later that Germany had agreed to convert a current loan into a grant to the Kingdom worth about JD 20 million to help it carry out development projects designed to deal with poverty.

The Regent was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as stating at Thursday's meeting that Jordan seeks to handle questions related to water, the environment and poverty in an integrated manner.

Mr. Zahlmann voiced appreciation of the Regent's efforts towards combating poverty in Jordan and promised continued German assistance to the Kingdom especially to help support Jordan's water projects and development schemes.

The German Embassy official said that Mr. Zahlmann is scheduled to meet Saturday with Secretary General of the Ministry

of Planning Nabil Ammari regarding aid.

The meeting with the Regent was attended by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Central Bank Governor Ziyad Fariz as well as German Ambassador to Jordan Peter Mende.

Germany, which holds nearly \$250 million of Jordan's foreign debts, is one of the Kingdom's major aid donors and has been financing many socio-economic development schemes.

Following his meetings in Amman, Mr. Zahlmann is scheduled to head for the West Bank on Sunday.

## Semi-weekly flights to Haifa to start

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Royal Wings, a subsidiary of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, is slated to begin semi-weekly flights between Amman and Haifa from January 1997, according to Royal Wings Director General Ahd Quntar.

Royal Wings, which was created earlier this year to conduct flights to neighbouring countries, has signed an accord on the new air link, Mr. Quntar said, adding that Royal Wings Tuesday made a test flight to Haifa and that the flight takes 45 minutes, 10 minutes more than the Amman

Tel-Aviv flight.

He said that Jordan and Israel have also resolved to add a supplementary flight to the five weekly flights between Amman and Tel-Aviv beginning December 9.

This, Mr. Quntar said, came at Jordan's behest due to growing demand.

He said that since the inception of the Amman-Tel Aviv route, Royal Wings has carried approximately 9,500 passengers between the two destinations.

Flights between Jordan and Israel were launched subsequent to the signing a

bilateral peace treaty in October of 1994.

Royal Wings, which commenced operations last March, has been operating two daily flights between Amman and Aqaba and a weekly flight to the Egyptian city Sharm Al Sheikh.

Royal Wings owns two 50-seater planes and earlier announced that it plans also to introduce flights to Alexandria, Saudi Arabia and Damascus.

Royal Wings is owned by Royal Jordanian, with one per cent ownership pertaining to the RJ Employee Savings Fund.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## PLAY

\*The City of Sawsanah (Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\*Photography exhibition by Lily Bandak entitled "Images of the Arab World" at the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association, exhibition hall, Sweifich, until December 1.

\*Works by Arab artists residing in Spain Zafer Adnan, Issam Ta'i, and Haken Sa'di at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utweina, until Dec. 3.

\*Works by Jalal Arigat and Larisa Najjar at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 6.

\*Retrospective exhibition by Berlin-based Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi at Darat Al Funun, Jalal Weibdeh, until Dec. 10. Also displaying works of contemporary Arab artists.

\*Works by Syrian artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. until Dec. 5.

\*Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.

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BANK OF JORDAN  
THE PEOPLE'S BANK









Tens of thousands of Belgraders jam the city's central square on tenth day of protest against the Socialist Party and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Serbia's opposition, in a mounting confrontation with Mr. Milosevic, kept up an unprecedented wave of protests Thursday as authorities tried to crack down on independent media (Reuters photo)

### Protests to continue as Milosevic's party claims poll win

**BELGRADE (AFP)** — Belgrade braced for more protests Friday as an electoral official said that vote reruns boycotted by the opposition had given Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic's party control of the city council.

Despite bitter weather, tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets every day to protest at the authorities' refusal to accept the results of Nov. 17 local elections, which gave the opposition coalition known as together control of Belgrade for the first time.

The authorities annulled the results in key areas because of what they called irregularities, and Mr. Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party has emerged the victor in Wednesday's reruns, according to preliminary results issued late Thursday.

The protests are the biggest challenge to Mr. Milosevic's authority since Sunday's protests in 1992.

On Thursday, over 100,000 demonstrated in an icy drizzle under a sea of

umbrellas in the biggest rally yet.

"We will overthrow dictatorship in Serbia with our peaceful marches," Zoran Djindjic, one of the coalition's leaders, told the protesters.

"We are not destroying our city, we are defending this country and this people," he said.

Another coalition leader, Vuk Draskovic of the Serbian renewal movement, urged protesters to stop throwing eggs at the building housing the hated state-run television station and breaking windows at the pro-government newspaper Politika.

"I ask you for peaceful, disciplined and responsible protests," Slobodan Milosevic is afraid of our peace and non-violence," Mr. Draskovic said.

The official media had branded such incidents as "acts of vandalism" while the opposition said they were caused by "provocateurs."

Earlier Thursday, some 20,000 students marched through the streets of the city, led by young women who offered flowers to police in an ironic gesture.

Fewer people were expected at Friday's protest as it was a national holiday and many had left the city for a long weekend.

City Election Commission head Radimir Lazarevic said late Thursday that after the reruns, Milosevic's party had won an absolute majority on the municipal council, according to preliminary results.

Quoted by Tanjug news agency, in a report monitored by the BBC, he said that the ruling Socialists had won 58 seats in the 110-seat city assembly, while together had won 31 seats, and that turnout was 32.22 per cent.

The United Nations and the United States have both expressed concern about the situation in Serbia, with U.N. human rights envoy Elisabeth Rehn saying that

the government should respect the earlier vote.

Ms. Rehn also called on the government "to refrain from taking any measures restricting freedom of the media."

Cvijetin Milojevic, deputy editor of the independent daily newspaper Blic, resigned Wednesday after being advised "not to deal too much with politics," the independent news agency Beta reported.

The Serbian president himself has kept a low profile since the dispute erupted.

The opposition had also claimed to have won in other major towns in Serbia in a major breakthrough, but the results were not confirmed. Overall, Mr. Milosevic's party won most municipal councils as it is well supported in the countryside.

In general elections for the Yugoslav Federal parliament on Nov. 3, Mr. Milosevic and his allies also won a comfortable majority.

### Lukashenko signs constitution, shuts down parliament

**MINSK (R)** — President Alexander Lukashenko sent in police to shut down parliament in Belarus Thursday and Western diplomats stayed away from an official ceremony at which he signed the former Soviet republic's new constitution.

"There is talk Lukashenko won the referendum. No, it was a victory for the people of Belarus," Mr. Lukashenko said, using the kind of language that helped him win more than 70 per cent support at a constitutional referendum Sunday.

He then signed the gleaming, leather-bound text of a constitution which will extend his term beyond 2000, give him big powers over all rival institutions. A council of Europe analysis said the constitution failed to meet minimum human rights standards.

But deputy Viktor Gonchar, sacked as head of the electoral commission by Mr. Lukashenko who monopolised the media throughout his campaign, slammed

med his old boss.

"Belarus has received a lesson in democracy Russian-style. Moscow has betrayed the idea of parliamentarism and has received as a partner a totalitarian republic," he said.

Russia made clear Thursday it recognised Mr. Lukashenko's new constitution, unlike western countries, and sent its ambassador and a government delegation to the signing ceremony.

He also asked the West to pay no attention to the opinions of his opponents in Belarus, who accuse him of tyrannical behaviour and compare him to Europe's worst dictators.

"I call on Western politicians to look at what is happening in Belarus without bias. I urge you, don't let the opposition burden you with emotions," he said.

But diplomats in Minsk said no European embassies had accepted the president's invitation to attend the ceremony.

Earlier Mr. Lukashenko

swept aside the main obstacle to enforcing his new constitutional order in the former Soviet republic by barring several dozen deputies from the chamber.

They had held out while colleagues joined Mr. Lukashenko and split parliament, but Sunday police allowed them in to the building only to empty their desks.

"This marks the setting up of a junta through the falsification of the referendum results," liberal faction leader Stanislav Bogdankevich told Reuters.

Anatoly Malofeyev, 63, who once ran the Soviet-era Communist Party in Belarus, was elected speaker of the new lower house which is occupied entirely by Mr. Lukashenko supporters.

The deputy speaker will be 42-year-old Vladimir Konoplyov, who led the pro-Lukashenko faction in the old parliament. Their election was a formality as they were the only candidates.

For three days Belarus

### Multinational reconnaissance team to enter Zaire

**KIGALI (R)** — A multinational operation to help hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees adrift in eastern Zaire makes one step forward this weekend when a small military team goes in on reconnaissance, a Canadian spokesman said Friday.

In Ottawa Thursday, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said that ambassadors from over 20 countries would meet Friday to give the multinational operation final approval.

"We have now achieved an agreement," he said in a statement. The agreement is to set up a multinational headquarters in Uganda, pursue further reconnaissance, and put in place a capability to airdrop food in eastern Zaire if needed.

The Canadian spokesman in Central Africa, Major Paul Dangerfield, said Friday

that the reconnaissance team would include two or three officers going into eastern Zaire with the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR to find out where the refugees are.

"They will be unarmed and out of uniform and we expect them to go in Saturday or Sunday," he told reporters in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

Different agencies and governments have given widely varying accounts of the number and location of the refugees, in some cases for partisan reasons.

The Rwandan government and the Zairean rebels who now control large parts of eastern Zaire oppose the deployment of an international force, which might indirectly strengthen the position of ailing Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

They also argue that since

fighting broke out in eastern Zaire in October most of the Rwandan refugees have either returned home or are trying to do so, making the multinational operation largely redundant.

In an interview to be published Monday in the Paris-based weekly *Nouvel Afrique*, rebel leader Laurent Kabila said his men would resist any French presence in a military force.

"Let no one believe any longer that we'll keep our arms folded when we see the first French soldier or paratrooper in this region," he said.

France said Thursday the number of refugees still made a multinational ground force necessary but it was also prepared to join a proposed airdrop of food into eastern Zaire.

The airdrop proposal was designed to circumvent ob-

jections to a ground force but the government of Zaire added to the controversy Thursday by rejecting this alternative.

Zairean government spokesman Boguo Makeli said Zaire was worried the airdrops would not be safe and would be staged from neighbouring countries it accuses of aggression.

"Zaire will not authorise overflights of its territory by any aircraft, whichever force it belongs to, for an operation so dangerous for the people concerned," he told Reuters.

On the ground in eastern Zaire, a column of refugees continued to reach the town of Sake on their way to the Rwandan border, 30 kilometres to the east.

UNHCR will bring 700 of them from Sake to the border town of Goma in a convoy of trucks Friday, UNHCR officials said.

## U.S. troops on alert after 6 blasts rock Bosnian town

**SARAJEVO (AFP)** — U.S. forces went on alert in northern Bosnia Thursday night after explosions ripped through houses near the town of Brcko, a NATO spokesman said Friday.

Six explosions destroyed four houses in the Muslim village of Omerbegovaca, wounding one civilian in the head shortly after 11:00 p.m. (2200 GMT) a NATO spokesman said.

An American forces quick reaction team from the 1st infantry division were deployed in the village shortly afterwards. The wounded man, village leader Huso Boar, was treated at the U.S. forces Camp McGovern, the spokesman added.

Omerbegovaca lies on the outskirts of Brcko, a Serb-held town in northern Bosnia bitterly contested during the war. NATO said the four destroyed houses were unoccupied.

As part of NATO's efforts to stamp out a wave of bomb attacks on unoccupied houses, troops of the NATO-led peace implementation force (IFOR) had checked the houses in Omerbegovaca previously for explosives.

An investigation into the detonations was launched by local police and U.N. police, said a NATO spokesman.

The U.N. has said that in the past few weeks more than 200 unoccupied houses belonging mainly to Muslims have been destroyed on both sides of the former front line between Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims.

U.N. officials believe the blasts are attempts to deter refugees moving back into areas where they lived before the war.

Meanwhile, a train carrying one M-60 tank and 10 armoured vehicles — the first U.S. weapons delivery — arrived for the Muslim-Croat Federal Army.

The weapons arrived



Croat Drazen Erdemovic enters the trial chamber at the United Nations criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague Friday. Mr. Erdemovic, who confessed to being one of the Bosnian Serb Army's execution squad that massacred over 1,000 Muslim at Srebrenica last year, was sentenced to 10 years jail (Reuters photo)

Thursday at the railway station in Hadzici, near Sarajevo, prompting sighs of relief among Bosnian officials.

"Finally," said the commander of the Muslim-Croat army, Gen. Rasim Delic. "It started and will continue."

The delivery is just part of the \$100 million worth of U.S. military hardware that arrived weeks ago in the Croatian Port of Ploce.

The arriving equipment is the first step of a \$400 million programme designed to raise the army of the Muslim-Croat Federation to the level of the Bosnian Serb

forces. "Train and equip" aims to create military balance in the region as a guarantee for stability.

The United States at first refused to unload a cargo vessel with the hardware — including M-60 tanks, M-111 armoured vehicles, M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns, anti-tank weapons, radio communications, ammunition and other equipment — until the government in Sarajevo fired its deputy defence minister, who has close ties with Iran.

The government eventually did so, and the ship was unloaded six days ago. Part

of the equipment went straight to the Bosnian Croat-controlled federal army barracks in Livno, and the train carrying 390 tons of equipment reached Hadzici after traveling for hours.

"I hope these weapons will be the power that will deter any future fighting," said Gen. Delic. "I had confidence in my soldiers when we had none of this, but this gives us additional confidence."

In a separate development, a Croat who confessed to being one of the Bosnian Serb army's execution squad that massacred over 1,000 Muslims at Srebrenica last year, was sentenced Friday to 10 years in jail in the Hague.

Drazen Erdemovic is the first person to be sentenced by the Hague-based U.N. criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia and the first sentenced by an international war crimes tribunal of any sort for half a century.

Presiding Judge Claude Jorda of France said that, in passing sentence, the three-judge panel had taken into account the accused's age, his low military rank, his remorse and his cooperation with prosecutors.

Earlier this month the prosecution recommended Mr. Erdemovic be jailed for no longer than 10 years, recognising that he had confessed, pleaded guilty, shown remorse and provided valuable information about war crimes. The defence had argued for acquittal.

Mr. Erdemovic, 25, pleaded guilty in May to taking part in the slaughter of 1,200 unarmed Muslims after the United Nations "safe haven" of Srebrenica fell to Bosnian Serbs in July 1995.

The tribunal, set up by the U.N. Security Council, in May 1993, can impose a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

### Mother Teresa's heart operation a success — doctor

**CALCUTTA (AFP)** — Nobel Peace laureate Mother Teresa underwent a heart test followed by a successful operation to clear blocked arteries here Friday, a doctor said.

A.K. Chatterjee, a member of the panel of doctors treating the 86-year-old nun at the B.M. Birla Heart Institute For Heart Problems, hailed the operation "a success" and said Mother Teresa was recovering well.

Doctors at the B.M. Birla Heart Institute here carried out an angiography test, which involves injecting dyes into heart arteries to enable them to examine the flow of blood on video.

They then performed an angioplasty, a technique using a miniature balloon to clear artery blockages.

Dr. Chatterjee said: "Both the angiography test and the angioplasty are over."

"It was a success and she is well."

Hospital sources said Mother Teresa underwent the treatment around 2.00 p.m. (0830 GMT).

The Albanian-born nun, who has spent almost 50 years working as a missionary in the Calcutta slums, was taken to Woodlands Hospital Friday following heart failure and moved to the heart institute Tuesday.

It was the third time Mother Teresa, who wears a pacemaker, had undergone an angioplasty since 1991.

She has been in and out of hospital since August, when she had to be revived after her heart stopped beating for almost two minutes.

### China, India to ease frontier problems

**NEW DELHI (R)** — India and China, which fought a border war in 1962, Friday initiated an agreement to minimise the possibility of armed conflict on their frontier, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

PTI said the confidence-building measure was initiated by the countries' foreign ministers after talks between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available.

The border issue is viewed as central to problems between the two countries, home to one-third of the world's population.

Jiang arrived in New Delhi Thursday for a state visit, the first to India by a Chinese president. He will leave Sunday for Pakistan, India's traditional rival.

PTI said three other agreements were initiated — on preventing illegal drug trafficking, direct shipping links and an Indian consulate office in Hong Kong after mid-1997.

"India and China today agreed to take vital confidence-building measures to minimise the possibility of any armed conflict at their borders..." it said on the frontier pact.

The two countries fought a border war in 1962 and troops are still deployed along both sides of the rugged line of actual control.

India and China signed an agreement in 1993 to ease tension along their 4,000 kilometres frontier during a visit by former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to Beijing.

In August 1995, India and China agreed to pull back their troops from four border posts in India's north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, parts of which are claimed by China.

PTI gave few details of the other agreements but said the shipping pact envisaged direct links between the two countries that were expected to result in a rise in Sino-Indian trade.

According to official statistics, two-way trade totalled \$1.16 billion in 1995 after \$895 million in 1994.

On Thursday, Jiang and Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma said friendship between their countries could be a key to world peace.

"I am convinced that the Chinese and Indian peoples joining together will be a great force and an important guarantee for peace in Asia and the world at large," Jiang said.

Sharma also made an apparent reference to China's friendship with Pakistan, saying new delhi was concerned by actions that adversely affected regional security.

Pakistan has enjoyed close relations with China since the 1960s. In recent years, the two countries have been accused of secret nuclear and missile deals, which both have denied.

Sharma said India was prepared to work with China to resolve differences on the boundary issue.

On ties between India and China, one western diplomat said: "Indian policy makers generally agree that China is a problem to be managed."

"The strategy is to try to build elements of stability into the relationship that will survive ups and downs and any change in Chinese policy."

China said Friday it had not and would not supply nuclear weapons or technology to Pakistan, an official spokesman said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Shen Guofeng, who is accompanying President Jiang to India, said Beijing would not sell nuclear weapons to "any region or country."

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## Jordan Times

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Director General:  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
**GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

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## Consumer watch

AS SUPPLIERS of different goods and commodities catch up with aggressive marketing techniques, consumers are finding themselves bombarded with advertisements that often attach to materials on offer qualities they do not have. Citizens are also tempted to purchase certain products by heavy advertisements that promise prizes that are often exaggerated. Children are especially targeted. Sales are often unreal, with prices going down by less than 10 per cent of the announced discounts.

Consumers need protection. The government must take a leading role in providing this protection. False information about products must be punishable by law. A citizen has the right to know what he or she is buying. Companies offering prizes upon the purchase of their products must not be allowed to mislead consumers about the number or value of the prizes.

But the government cannot do it all. Free markets usually develop their own mechanisms for the protection of consumers. Civic groups are a necessity in free markets where it is hard for the individual to make the right decision amidst aggressive marketing and a high number of choices. The Jordan Consumer Society has done little in this regard. It can activate its work and start serving the purpose for which it was created. The society had a major success when it called on Jordanians to boycott coffee when local merchants refused to lower their prices in light of the decrease of the price on the international market. There is no reason why this success cannot be repeated.

The society can work on two fronts. First, it can disseminate information about products and can call for consumer action against merchants and companies that mislead the public. Secondly, it can pressure the government into issuing regulations and laws that protect consumers against all sorts of illegal and unethical advertising.

Free markets have their many advantages. But they also have many ills which could reflect negatively on the consumers. Stricter regulations are needed to maximise the advantages and minimise the disadvantages. But more civic action and more consumer awareness are also needed.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank constitutes further reaffirmation of his aggressive and anti-peace policies which have clashed with the world community's will, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily. Mr. Netanyahu's decision to build more settlements and to beef up the existing ones drew criticism from the American state department, was condemned by the Arab countries and the Palestinians and deplored by the European nations as obstructing the path of durable peace. In total disregard to the rights of the Palestinians, the international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, said the writer, Mr. Netanyahu claimed that the expansion of the settlements was a result of the natural growth of the settlement population, ignoring the fact that the Jewish settlements have been illegally set up on occupied territory, said the writer. Coinciding with Mr. Netanyahu's visit, Jewish settlers in the Hebron area met Palestine leader Yasser Arafat, stressing their desire to coexist with the Palestinians and supporting an Israeli redeployment in the Hebron region, said the writer. He said this development portrays Mr. Netanyahu as more extremist in his policies than the settlers themselves and acting as if he were advocating the Jewish settlements' ideology, in contravention of all international principles.

COMMENTING ON the Iraqi-U.N. agreement on the implementation of U.N. Resolution 986 allowing Iraq to sell oil in exchange of food and medicine, a writer for Al Dustour said that the deal marked a significant development and signalled the return of Iraq to the fold of the world community. It is natural for Jordan to express delight over this development, as the agreement is bound to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people, said Saleh Qallab. By exporting its oil to buy food and medicine, Iraq will gradually regain its position among the oil-exporting nations and the world community of nations, he said. Iraq is exhausted by the crippling embargo and its economy has been paralysed due to lack of revenues that would buy the necessities of the Iraqi people, continued the writer. He said Iraq can no longer swim against the current, neither can the country defy the whole world and therefore it has to accept the new facts and deal with the regional and international situations realistically and objectively, said the writer. Having accepted all U.N. terms, and implemented all U.N. resolutions, added the writer, Iraq deserves to regain its status once again and it is hoped that the United States would refrain from finding excuses to justify further delays in the implementation of U.N. resolutions.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Oil-for-food is good news for Iraq, but it is not enough

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JUDGING FROM the way things look today, it seems likely that Iraqi oil will start flowing to the international market before the end of the year, for the first time since international sanctions deprived Baghdad from vital oil revenues in 1990. Hopefully, everything will be in place and in order by then to ensure that the proceeds from the limited \$1 billion sale of oil every three months is channelled to feeding and treating the suffering Iraqi people.

In strict business terms, Jordanians are no different from the rest of the international community in trying to secure Iraqi import orders for food and medicine, and related items, as allowed under United Nations Security Council Resolution 687. In addition, most of the bulk cargo, carried on vessels of more than 25,000-tonne capacity, is expected to be routed through Aqaba, thus benefiting the stagnant transport sector of the Kingdom. We do have concrete assurances from Baghdad in this respect. Furthermore, our active private sector organisations, led by the Amman Chamber of Industry, have signed agreements worth substantial amounts of exports to Iraq, both to the government and the private sector. Those agreements are most likely to make up for the reduction in the amount of exports covered under the official Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol.

It is a safe assumption that Jordan opened a new page in its relations with Iraq in August this year. The new relationship was further consolidated by the meeting His Majesty King Hussein held with Moheiddin Marouf, an Iraqi vice-president representing the Kurdish community

of Iraq, early this month in Amman when the King received from Mr. Marouf a message sent by President Saddam Hussein.

However, the new relationship does not entail Jordanian silence over the suffering of the Iraqi people. In this context, we in Jordan are immensely happy for the oil-for-food deal that Baghdad and the United Nations are poised to implement. We would still be happy even if the deal did not mean business for Jordanians, since our concern, first and foremost, has always been over the hunger and diseases besetting our neighbours.

That concern also translates into anxiety to see the removal once and for all of the crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq. The oil-for-food deal should not be allowed to become a permanent feature of the Iraqi economy and the overall political scene in the Middle East. The United Nations Security Council should not remain hostage to the political designs of any country which might have strategic interests to ensure that the yoke of the sanctions remains on the Iraqi shoulders.

What we have seen over the years is the goal post being pushed further everytime Iraq complies with demands of the United Nations as enshrined in the ceasefire resolution that ended the Gulf war over Kuwait. The latest argument put up by the U.N. arms inspectors is that Iraq could still be hiding up to 16 Scud missiles. We are sure that if the contention is true and Iraq produces the so-called hidden missiles tomorrow, something else will come up the day

after that would be used to block the issuance of a clean bill of health for Iraq.

Having said that, we cannot brush aside the bad record that Iraq has with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons of mass weapons and eliminating Iraq's ability to produce them since early 1991. However, we all saw new thinking emerging in Baghdad, leading to the disclosure of hidden details of the country's secret weapons programme in late 1995 following the defection of Hussein Kamel and his brother.

But UNSCOM and the powers at large do not seem to acknowledge the change in thinking in Baghdad. That is what is bothering not only us in Jordan but all those who would like to see Iraq's return to its rightful place in the regional and international scenes. We cannot but reiterate that the powers that control the workings of the United Nations Security Council should spell out in clear terms what they expect of Iraq. The condition for lifting the sanctions on Iraq is Baghdad's compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions; then it should be made clear and undertaken without any ambiguity that the sanctions will be lifted immediately after Iraq meets these conditions.

So, what we need is clarity from those powers. As long as clarity is missing from their approach to Iraq, the suffering of the Iraqi people will continue. And that is not something we in Jordan are willing to accept.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Israel's settlement programmes show no peaceful intentions

REVIEWED BY  
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies last week gave prominence to the settlement programmes announced by the Likud-led government in Israel, the beginning of the end of the embargo on Iraq and domestic issues, among other topics.

Israel's announcement of new Jewish settlement programmes in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and plans to build more settlements in the Palestinian lands are tantamount to a declaration of war on the Arab Nation, said a writer for Al Ra'i.

The Arab countries have no alternative but to stop their plans for any negotiations with Israel at the moment and focus their attention on the political battle against the Jewish state, exposing its illegal measures to the world, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

The writer said the Palestinians should concentrate on rallying the world community's support for their views that Jewish settlement programmes must be terminated while the Syrian leadership ought to launch a similar diplomatic offensive aimed at exposing the Netanyahu government's defiance of the U.N. resolutions that call for the exchange of land for peace and an end to occupation, said the writer.

To back such offensive, the Arab countries at large should spare no effort in conveying the message to the United Nations, the major world powers, and seek a comprehensive solution to the problem based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the principles of the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

A writer for Al Dustour reflected on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over Hebron and said they do not represent mere procedural matters connected with Israel's demands with regard to "hot pursuit" the weapons of the Palestinian police and joint patrol operations.

Hamadeh Faruaneh said that these negotiations in which Israel is demanding the right to control the life of the Arabs in their own homeland touch the very heart of Palestinian sovereignty and infringes on the rights of the Palestinian people to handle their own life affairs.

In order to force the Palestinian leadership to accept its humiliating terms the Israeli government is tightening the blockade on the Palestinian territories and pursuing further acts

designed to starve the Palestinian people, said the writer.

The Palestinian leadership has no alternative but to expose Israel's illegal measures and Netanyahu's government's non-abdication of the Oslo agreements, he said, adding that through this strategy the Palestinians aim at further isolating the present Israeli government and exercising pressure that could result in a change in the present situation.

Syria has all the right to demand a clear Israeli commitment to evacuating the occupied Arab lands on the Golan before accepting to resume peace negotiations, said a writer for Al Ra'i.

For one thing, Israel has only been issuing threats and not offering any peace bids to the Syrians and for another, the Syrians seem to have learnt a lesson from the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

solutions have been implemented in full.

The writer said that the Arab and Islamic countries seem to be convinced that the sanctions should be terminated and all that they need now is to take a political decision to end this tragedy.

Another Al Dustour writer, Yasser Zaareh, strongly criticised the United States for its ongoing plots against the Sudanese government and people.

The writer said the United States has allocated \$20 million annually to arm the separatist groups fighting the Khartoum government and has imposed an embargo on Sudan in a bid to bring down its Islamist regime.

In its current drive against Sudan, Washington aims at replacing the Khartoum government with one that would collaborate with

The majority of women in Jordan are deprived of inheriting their husbands' fathers' property, according to the writer who cited a recent statistical study as showing that women in Jordan own only 1.5 per cent of the real estate.

At the same time, he said that the women in Jordan earn the equivalent of only two thirds of men's wages for the same kind of work, are deprived of the right to obtain a passport without their husbands' approval and only 11 per cent of

Jordanian women are employed in work outside their homes.

He said that the mentality of men and their behaviour towards women should drastically change if real socio-economic development is to be achieved.

## LETTERS

# No shame in receiving

To the Editor:

TWO YEARS ago, when I was visiting my family in Jordan, I read a letter to the editor where a gentleman wondered what it would take to change Jordan's position from a country considered as developing, or Third World, to one of the industrialised nations. Among his recommendations was minimum wages. At the time I was tempted to give my point of view, having left Jordan for Canada 30 years ago. I still think about that letter and, on the second anniversary of an experience I had in Jordan, I decided to write despite the lapse of time.

Shortly after that visit, I returned to join my brothers and sisters in Amman to bid final farewell to our father, Emile Aboud, affectionately known as Abu George. All those who knew my dad will always remember him as a gentle man who dedicated his life to his family and to his passion — education. He drilled into us the fact that education is an asset that no enemy can take away — a sentiment shared by many, particularly the thousands of Palestinians who left their material possessions behind.

He solicited money from the business community to anonymously pay the tuition of those bright students whose parents could not afford to send them to private schools. I especially cherish the willingness with which he gave me his blessing when I decided to emigrate to Canada to follow my dream despite the admonition of many of his friends. I know how painful it must have been for him to let me go. I will be eternally grateful for I loved and respected my dad too much to go against his wishes. This is the kind of man we wished to honour after his death.

We decided that the most fitting tribute to my dad would be to establish a scholarship in his name; to have his name linked to education in death as it was during his life. I wanted to have a plaque displayed at the college where he spent most of his life and where every year we would add a little brass plate with the name of the student chosen to receive such an honour.

To my dismay, I was informed that we would not be allowed to display the recipients' names as this would indicate that they are needy and it would embarrass them. This sentiment was echoed by various individuals in the business community. I could have insisted that the scholarship be established in Canada, where such mentality does not exist. However, I knew that my dad would rather see a student from "his" benefit and so the scholarship was established and the chosen student is now in his second year.

I am fully aware that one does not publicise any charitable work; it was only after his death that we discovered the extent of dad's philanthropic work. The intent is not to cause any embarrassment to anyone. However, this is a scholarship established in memory of my father and his many contributions to the community; it should be accepted with pride as a reflection of one's academic achievement.

I contrast the mentality and attitude displayed in Jordan to those in Canada. Our sons have won many memorial scholarships; every time a presentation was publicly made to them, regardless of the amount, sometimes as little as \$100, their

names appeared on school plaques and often in newspapers; ribbons, testimonials and small plaques are proudly displayed in their rooms. Do we feel ashamed or embarrassed? We feel very proud that their accomplishment are being noted and rewarded.

What builds a country is the strength of its people, their strong convictions, their willingness to work and sacrifice. Stones and mortar may impress the passers-by but they do not a civilisation make. Whenever I am in Jordan, I get into arguments about the country having come a long way where I am reminded of the boulevards, the villas, the new hotels, etc.; how well we are doing compared to "poor" or backward countries. Why cannot we compare ourselves to those who have excelled?

Alas, I long for the Jordan I knew thirty years ago when people were not as materialistic, when values reflected one's heritage, one's education, when people spent within their means and did not bankrupt themselves trying to keep up with the Jones's. Arabs are very proud people and this is commendable, but what I consider "false pride" is both detracting and destructive.

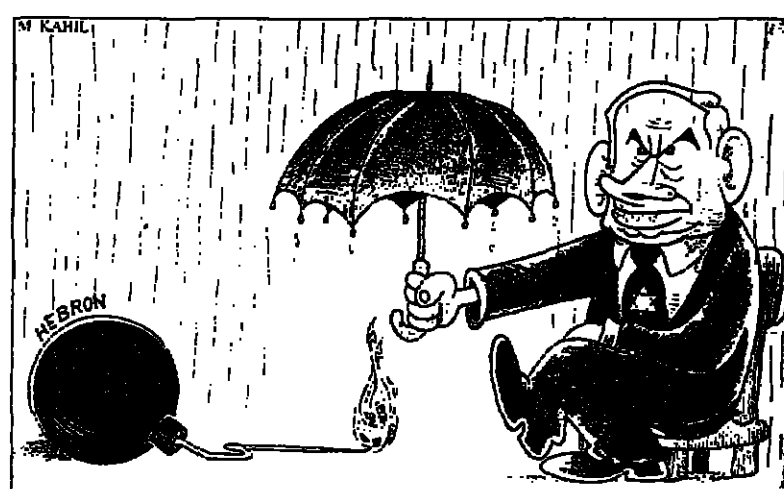
I have and still declare with pride that the only way parents could have afforded to send us to a French boarding school was through the school subsidising our tuition fees because we were good students. We appreciated the generosity of friends who drove us to and from Jerusalem with their daughters so we did not have to spend money on travel. Is there a shame in that? On the contrary, I still tell fellow Canadians how my parents sacrificed in order to send all five of us to private schools, how they may have had meat in their meals once or twice a month. Did we feel deprived? No way! I have nothing but the happiest memories of my childhood. I am very glad that I was able to instill such values in our boys so they know the value of money. My boys will never be able to understand why a plaque bearing "Sido's" name and the recipient of the scholarship cannot be proudly displayed at the school where he spent the best years of his life.

It is only when people are comfortable with themselves that society will learn to graciously accept a scholarship or help of any kind; when they have self-esteem that they can start building the country so it can proudly take its place among the industrialised nations. By no means, is this a reflection on the recipient of the scholarship — rather it is a societal malaise.

I hope this will be taken in the spirit it's given — that of constructive criticism. After all, "even eagles need a push."

Nellie Bannayan,  
Canada.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



which are leading nowhere, said Salah Jarrar.

Israel has been claiming that it wants peace with Syria and desires to resume the negotiations with Damascus to achieve that goal, according to the writer. But Israel has offered no constructive plan to achieve that goal, neither has it expressed its commitment to withdraw from the Syrian heights occupied since 1967, he added.

The writer said that Israel has only to declare openly its intention to withdraw all its forces from the Syrian heights and stop its threats levelled against Damascus in order to lure the Syrians to the negotiating table.

Commenting on the U.N.-Iraq accord allowing Iraq to start selling oil in order to purchase food and medicine, a writer for Al Dustour said that the accord constitutes the first breach in the wall of the embargo that has been clamped on the Iraqi people since 1990.

Mohammad Kawash said that calls on the Arab countries, coming from the United Arab Emirates, to end the embargo and accept Iraq once again into the Arab fold should be heeded by other Arab leaders.

He said that the United States has been imposing starvation and sufferings on the Iraqis in the name of the United Nations whose res-

Israel and the United States in forming what Washington calls the new Middle East order, charged the writer.

He said that the enemies of the Arab Nation hope to create a Sudanese-Ethiopian alliance that would exercise pressure on Egypt through controlling the waters of the River Nile to ensure that the U.S.-Israeli policies are implemented in the region.

The plots against Sudan and the other Arab countries are very serious indeed, said the writer who urged the Arab states to take collective actions to fend off the looming danger.

Fahed Fanek, a writer for Al Ra'i, claimed that women in Jordan face continuous persecution at the hands of men and of the prevailing laws.

Referring to a recent survey, the writer said that 12 per cent of women are prevented from going out at all, 27 per cent are prevented by men from visiting neighbours or going out shopping, and 66 per cent are prohibited from visiting relatives outside their own towns.

He also noted that the survey shows that 88 per cent of the women are not allowed to pursue studies abroad and that 63 per cent of women are forced to don the Islamic Sharia dress covering them from top to toe.



# Features

## What a difference a year makes: 1996 exposes aeons of galactic history

By Matt Crenson  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Until this year, astronomers had to wait a long time to witness events that happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

But now they can view the universe with telescopes rather than wait. A new technique is pin-pointing galaxies so distant that their light has spent most of the universe's history travelling to Earth.

Using the new technique, astronomers have spent much of this year watching ancient worlds pop out of the sky like fireworks. So far they've identified about 100 galaxies so distant that Earthbound observers see the star clusters as they were when the universe was less than a quarter of its present age. And there are hundreds more to come.

"It's as if you could look out and see dinosaurs somehow walking on the face of the Earth," said Jim Peebles, an astronomer at Princeton University.

Many of the ancient galaxies identified in the last year come from a single astronomical snapshot — the Hubble deep field. The Hubble telescope spent 10 days in December trained on one small patch of sky, and brought into focus some of the faintest astronomical objects ever seen.

Reports of distant galaxies are coming in such great numbers that many astronomers believe they soon may be able to address the question of how galaxies are born.

"That's been the big mystery up to now," said Robert Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Astronomers have known for about 70 years that the Milky Way, the spiral-shaped swarm of 100 billion stars where we live, is but one galaxy among billions. But how such galaxies came to be is a tough nut to crack, because the galaxies most relevant to that issue are the farthest away.

Far-off objects are important to understanding the universe's past because, in astronomy, distance equals age. It takes about 50 minutes for light to travel from Jupiter to Earth, for example. So when earthlings observe the solar system's largest planet, they see it as it was nearly an hour earlier.

Similarly, the nearest star to the sun, Proxima Centauri, is 4.3 light-years away. So people gazing at it tonight will see it as it actually was in July 1992.

When astronomers make a picture like the Hubble deep field, what they get is a soup of faint galaxies, most of which are fairly nearby and a precious few that are so distant they appear as they were when the universe was still wet behind the ears. The trick is to tell which galaxies are which.

"There are galaxies everywhere, and the problem is finding the needles in the haystack," said Harry Ferguson of the Space Telescope Institute. In the past, figuring out the distance to a galaxy has meant spreading the object's image out into a spectrum, the way a prism breaks sunlight into the colours of the rainbow. Analysing the spectrum's colours reveals how far

away the galaxy is. But that's difficult, if not impossible, for the most distant and faintest objects because there just isn't enough light to work with.

To overcome that problem, a number of astronomers have spent the last few years developing a shorthand way to analyse the light coming from distant objects. Rather than smear the light out into a rainbow, they take multiple pictures of the same thing in three or four different colours.

The Hubble deep field was actually four photographs — one each in red, blue, infrared and ultraviolet. The last two aren't literally colours, because they're beyond the range of the human eye, but to telescopes they're the same thing.

The most distant galaxies simply don't show up in one or more of the colours. A galaxy that can't be seen in the ultraviolet, for example, is at least distant enough to appear as it was when the universe was one-fourth its present age. And if a galaxy disappears in both the ultraviolet and the blue pictures, it's even older than that.

"It's really not any kind of spectacularly revolutionary idea. It's just a simple idea that works," said Charles Steidel, one of the central figures in the effort to develop the new distance-measuring method.

The method works not just with cutting-edge technology, but also with telescopes that don't often make headlines, such as the four-metre atop Kitt Peak in southern Arizona. Using that telescope, Steidel said, he already has found hundreds of potentially ancient galaxies.

"It's essentially a 100 per cent successful technique," said Mark Dickinson of the space telescope institute. "In one year, we've suddenly outstripped all the samples known before by huge factors."

Using the Hubble deep field, a trio of astronomers from New York and Spain claims to have found what could be the most distant and oldest galaxy ever seen. That galaxy appears as a barely discernible speck in only one of the four Hubble deep field photos — the infrared one.

That suggests that the speck of light was produced less than a billion years after the big bang, when the universe was still in diapers, the astronomers who discovered the galaxy claim. But other astronomers have reacted sceptically to that assertion, suggesting their colleagues may have pushed the shorthand method too far.

The real power of the new yardstick isn't in finding galaxies for the record books anyway, astronomers point out. They're more excited about the possibility of characterising everyday galaxies at each stage of the universe's history, the way archaeologists study ancient artefacts over successive prehistoric epochs.

With their current collection, astronomers already have confirmed that one major class of galaxies, the ellipticals, formed before spirals such as the Milky Way. And they've found that there was no single dramatic era when all the galaxies simultaneously formed. It seems to have been a gradual process that went on for billions of years.

## Mohammad Amin — 'enormous fun to work with and formidable competitor'

By Colin Blane

WHEN ETHIOPIA'S long civil war reached a climax in 1991, the cameraman Mohammad "Mo" Amin, who has died aged 52 in the hijacked Ethiopian airliner crash off the Comoros Islands, was filming the rebel take-over of Addis Ababa and the shelling of the imperial palace. Mo had dramatic pictures but since the airport and television station were closed, he couldn't get them out. He convinced colleagues in Nairobi that if they flew to join him he would make sure it was safe to land. As we made our approach, Mo was still negotiating with the military to have buses removed from the runway. We landed safely. Just as importantly from Mo's viewpoint he now had an aircraft to take his footage to the outside world. When a rival broadcaster tried to put his pictures on the same chartered plane, Mo would have none of it. He could be charming to work with but utterly ruthless if he thought he could put one over on the opposition.

Mo Amin spent more than 30 years covering Africa's troublespots, but he was closely identified with one story in particular — the 1984 Ethiopian famine. Mo was shooting for the Visions agency at the time and Michael Buerk was reporting for the BBC. Amin's pictures and Buerk's commentary produced some of the decade's most powerful television reports, provoked an international outcry and led to an unprecedented relief effort, including Bob Geldof's Live Aid concert. No one else could have

covered the famine as Mo Amin had. Buerk told me. He bullied and wheedled the Ethiopian authorities to get them there and wouldn't take no for an answer.

After 1984, Mo continued to cover East Africa from his Nairobi base. He was at the centre of the foreign press corps, fiercely competitive and a master at overcoming bureaucratic obstacles in a continent where getting to the story is often the most difficult job.

Ten days after the 1991 Addis Ababa take-over, as Ethiopia's new rulers began imposing order, a huge ammunition dump caught fire on the edge of the city. The fire burned during the night and although few journalists had transport, Mo had "borrowed" a taxi some days earlier. When the curfew ended, a small group of us drove to the scene. Mo had moved his filming position for safety reasons and there were houses on fire all round the dump. It was as we were moving from one area cover to another that there was an enormous explosion.

Mo had his left arm blown off; his soundman, John Mathai was killed and his second cameraman, Nick Hughes suffered a perforated eardrum. Only Michael Buerk and myself escaped unscathed. Mo, entirely in character, was determined to return to work. He was fitted with a bionic arm and had a television camera adapted to allow him to continue filming.

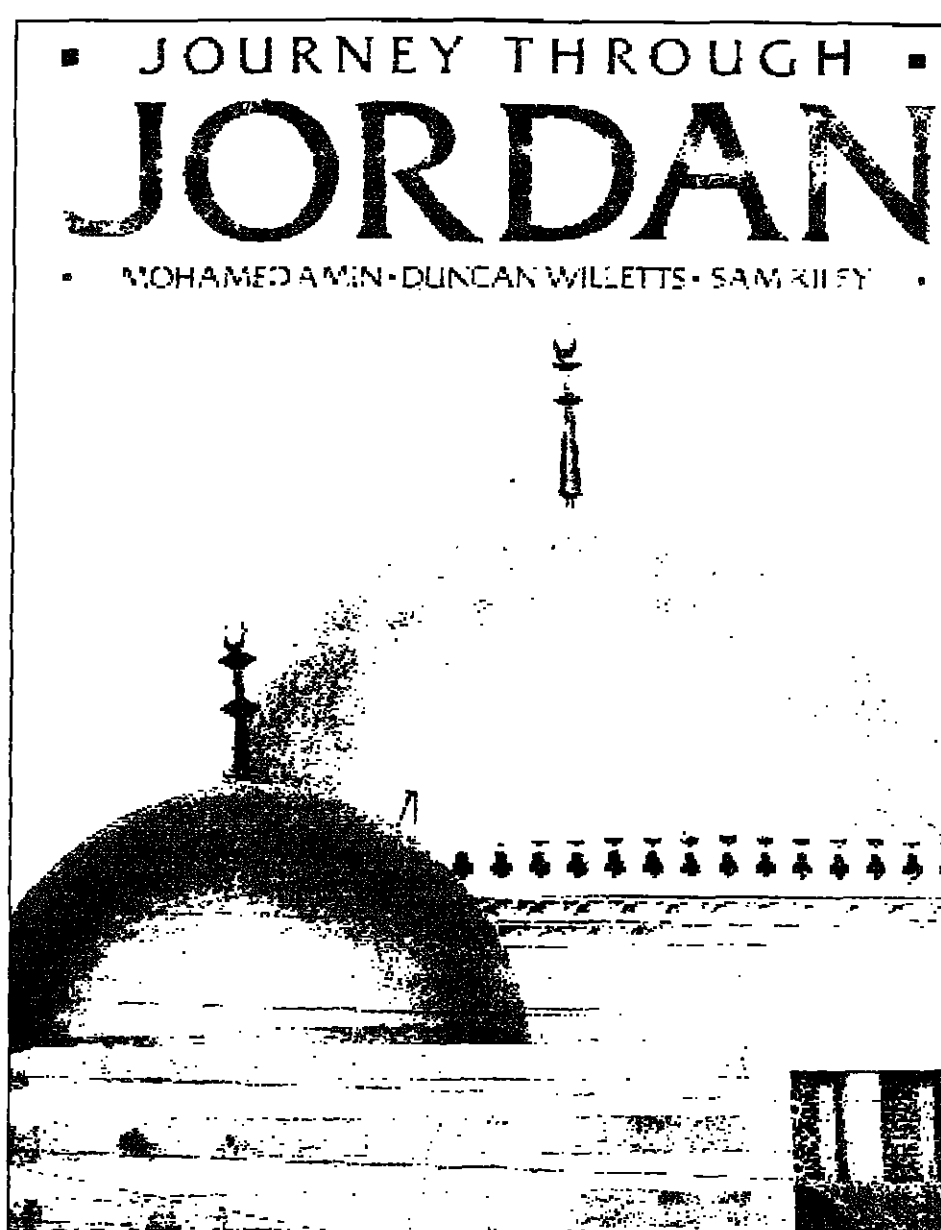
In recognition of his courage and career, Mo Amin was awarded the MBE in 1992. It was a

career which began when — as a schoolboy — he had his first front-page picture in the Tanganyika Standard in 1958. His father had worked for East African Railways. Mo went on to film the East African Rally and paradoxically — given his long association with the BBC — sold his first television footage to ITN.

His life as a television news cameraman was a series of scrapes and escapes. He was imprisoned in Zanzibar; he escaped from jail in Dar-es-Salaam; he survived an unlikely number of road accidents. Mo also had — most of the time — the happy knack of being in the right place when a story happened. He is remembered in Kenya for his coverage of the assassination of government planning minister Tom Mboya. Mo arrived so quickly he was able to jump into the ambulance taking Mboya to hospital.

Mo believed television journalism was worthwhile, especially when its glare was turned on the shortcomings of governments. He also derived huge enjoyment from what he did. He used to tell, for example, of a trip to East Pakistan with Panorama. At the border, the team could go no further without transport.

Mo negotiated with fleeing refugees to buy the fire engine they were travelling on — and his filming expedition continued in somewhat unorthodox style. Mo drove himself hard and often drove his employees harder than he should have. He ran a publishing company and undoubtedly made enemies in business. But



Jacket of a book with photos by Mohammad Amin and Duncan Willets and text by Sam Kiley

Mo valued and maintained his friendships. His biographer and scriptwriter, Brian Tetley died with him in the Indian Ocean plane crash. Mo Amin was a buccaneering figure, enormous fun to work with a formida-

ble competitor. He had survived so much — imprisonment, wars, car crashes — his friends were hoping that even this time he would somehow wade ashore. He is survived by his wife, Dolly, and son, Salim.

Mohammad Amin, cameraman, born Aug. 29, 1943, died Nov. 23, 1996.

The Guardian

## Singapore struggles to control cyberspace

By Chris Johnson  
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Singapore, famous for its social order and regulation, is struggling to control the chaos of the Internet.

Determined to make the tiny city-state "an information hub", in the words of Information and Arts Minister George Yeo, Singapore is linking every household through a vast network of high capacity coaxial cables and super-computers.

Once completed, access to the global computer network will be 1,000 times faster than through normal telephone connections.

Over 150,000 of Singapore's 750,000 households are already on line and all three million people should be tied in by 1999.

But with this information revolution comes new challenges, testing Singapore's

famous social order, which has been carefully cultivated by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) since the country's independence in 1965.

Long used to a strictly controlled local press and restrictions on many foreign publications, Singaporeans suddenly have virtually open access to news, information, films and, most worrying to the authorities, pornography.

This was not the what the government had in mind.

"We want businessmen to invest in the Internet and develop new software," Mr. Yeo said in recent interview. "We want the department stores and the purveyors of goods and services to make most use of the Internet."

Worried by lack of control, Singapore has announced measures to try to curb local access to "undesirable" Internet sites.

The Singapore Broadcasting Authority (SBA) licences just three Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for domestic subscribers, all units of government-linked companies, including state telephone company Singapore Telecom Tele.Si.

All three have installed "proxy servers", giant computers capable of blocking sites the SBA wants banned.

Singapore-based groups wanting to produce pages for the Internet's most popular forum, the world wide web, must also register with the sbu and can expect careful vetting if they trespass into the political or religious arena.

But the anarchic Internet, which lacks any central authority, appears to be defeating most attempts at control.

"It is impossible to block every site," said ong su

Mann, editor of the Singapore edition of "Asia online" magazine.

"Some adult sites have been blocked — Playboy, for example — but if you are someone that seeks out adult sites, all you need to do is use a search engine (software search device) such as yahoo yho.O or infoseek seek.O and type in a word like 'sex' or 'nudity'," he said.

A recent key-word search in Singapore for sites with "sex" in the title found 22,797 responses, many offering free access to pornographic pictures, videos or interactive chatlines. A similar search for "nudity" found 88,100 sites.

The biggest problem for would-be regulators is the Internet's size. With worldwide connections fast approaching 100 million, and new users coming in by tens of thousands every

day, there are simply too many sites to police.

Even if authorities were able to monitor and shut down offensive sites as fast as they appeared, users could simply dodge local controls by dialling into an Internet node in another country at international phone rates that are falling fast.

Faced with these hurdles, the Singapore authorities have decided to pick off what they say are the worst sites with "mass impact" at source, while attempting to curb access to pornography by encouraging control at a local level.

SBA chief executive officer Goh Liang Kwang says it has banned "just a few dozen sites", all of them pornographic.

"We want parents and teachers to put in their own measures like desk-top software such as 'surfwatch' and 'net nanny'."

Mr. Goh told Reuters in an interview.

Knowing it cannot block the overwhelming majority of sites on the Internet it dislikes and realising it is impractical to interfere with key-word searches, the SBA is making a gesture, which it hopes Singaporeans will respond to, Mr. Goh says.

On a political level, the governing pap has set up its own Internet sites to counter "misinformation" about Singapore.

But opponents of censorship scent victory.

"There is already plenty of censorship in Singapore," said Alex Chacko, publisher of several books about Singapore life which he says have incurred official displeasure.

"We've had problems in the past getting reviewed in Singapore... Now we use the Internet."

## Unruly passengers pose growing problem for U.S. airlines

By Randolph E. Schmid  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A drunken, knife-waving passenger forces a flight to make an unscheduled stop in Tennessee. A Saudi princess is accused of choking a stewardess on a flight to Boston. A passenger fights with crew members and tries to open a door, forcing an emergency landing in Ohio.

What's going on in America's skies?

That's a question, being pondered by the airline industry: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has just issued an advisory circular to airlines on dealing with the growing number of unruly passengers.

"We are seeing that (incidents) are more serious as

well as more frequent," said Jill Gallagher of the Association of Flight Attendants. "We can only guess at the reasons."

The FAA's advisory circular on unruly passengers recommending that airlines establish a formal policy for such cases, including "zero tolerance" of passenger misconduct.

Air crew should be encouraged to report problem incidents, the FAA said, with law enforcement authorities called in as necessary.

"We will not tolerate any interference with the vital safety functions performed by crew members," Linda Hall Daschle, the acting FAA administrator, has said.

A coalition of six unions representing flight atten-

dants met with federal regulators this summer to discuss the problem and to seek solutions.

The FAA said it received 96 reports of passenger interference with crews in 1993, 194 reports in 1994 and 174 last year. But not all cases are reported to the agency. Many are handled by crews or police.

American airlines said its flight attendants reported 140 physical assaults in 1995, up from just 33 the year before. On United, the number of verbal and physical assaults reported to the flight attendants union jumped from 77 to 94 over the same period.

The most common factor is use of alcohol, Ms. Gallagher said, but there also is an increase in general dissatisfaction with seemingly

minor incidents setting people off.

There has been an increase in "aggression and lack of restraint" she said: it is a "less genteel society — not as many manners are being used."

"And it's not one segment of society," she added. "We've seen it in first class and we've seen it in economy."

In a case last November, she said, a flight attendant was beaten by a passenger who claimed he had been bumped with a service cart. The attendant said he was sorry, she said, "but the guy beat him on his ear. Now he's having trouble with his balance and hearing. He is still in physical therapy" and cannot work, she said.

The passenger went to court and was sentenced to

six months unsupervised probation.

Flight attendants are trained to try to defuse tense situations.

But they are not trained to defend themselves, and often must seek help from other crew members or passengers, Ms. Gallagher said.

American Airlines recently advised its staff that it will stand behind them if they want to seek civil damages or pursue criminal cases against unruly passengers.

"It's simply inexcusable for passengers to think they can be rude or physically offensive to out people," American general counsel Anne McNamara wrote in the company magazine, "Flagship News."

With the new FAA advi-

sory circular, other airlines are likely to follow suit.

In the Tennessee case, a man was subdued by airport police in Nashville who boarded a USAIR 737 on Sept. 27. He was freed on bond pending trial.

A passenger was arrested in Columbus, Ohio, after a United Airlines flight made an emergency landing there Aug. 1. His case was dismissed after psychological evaluation.

On Jan. 22, a Saudi princess, Salwa Qahani, pleaded innocent in Boston to charges of assault and interfering with an airplane crew.

She received six months' probation after agreeing to pay \$500 in court costs.

## Private capital comes to the aid of Mediterranean states

PARIS (AFP) — Private capital is increasingly taking over from state funds in funding major infrastructure projects in countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean, a conference heard here.

From Morocco to Turkey or Lebanon, "infrastructure needs are enormous" and total \$16 billion a year in North Africa and the Middle East, Jerome Monod, director of the Lyonnaise Des Eaux told businessmen and foreign government ministers here Thursday.

The greatest needs concerned energy, transport, telecommunications, roads and water supplies, he told the conference, devoted to major projects in the Mediterranean basin.

In Turkey, demand for electricity which now totalled 96 billion kilowatts per hour was tipped to rise to 134 billion kWh in 2000, then to 290 billion within the next 15 years, he said. Regarding water, 45 per cent of the Mediterranean region had no access to

potable water, he said.

The "basic trend is for private funding of infrastructure in all sectors," he said. But citing World Bank figures indicating that governments are only able to finance 60 to 65 per cent of needs each year, Mr. Monod said the "question is therefore where to find the money".

While Turkey has approved legislation allowing concessions to be granted for projects in which the state wishes to minimise its own financial layout, other countries still find it hard to agree to the guarantees asked from them and find investors reluctant to go ahead because of fears they will lose money.

This is the case in Lebanon where discussions are underway with the GTM Dumez-Bouygues Consortium to build a toll motorway — a project costing around \$1 billion which would facilitate traffic from Syria to Beirut.

In Morocco, negotiations are underway with the

Lyonnaise Des Eaux on electricity and water distribution networks for a total of \$800 million. The talks have run into problems over guarantees demanded by investors but were on the point of succeeding, Mr. Monod said.

He said Mediterranean countries now seemed resolved to letting the private sector handle a large part of their infrastructural projects.

The Moroccan private sector will be responsible for more than a third of projects worth "more than 70 billion francs" (\$14 billion) between now and 2000, Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Kabbaj said.

Mr. Kabbaj recently announced the forthcoming end of the state's monopoly in telecommunications and said future fuel-powered generating stations in Morocco would be built by the private sector.

In Tunisia, the public sector financed only half of the \$20 billion worth of projects undertaken between

1992 and 1996, said Fethi Merdassi, external investment secretary.

In Lebanon, where civil war from 1975 to 1990 left devastation evaluated at \$25 billion, the government has appealed to foreign investors and to the private sector which has put \$1.8 billion into the reconstruction effort, said Lebanon's Finance Minister Fuad Saniora.

It is a private firm Solidere which has been entrusted with the task of rebuilding the centre of Beirut.

All these countries, many of whom are associates of the European Union, are relying on European aid to improve their infrastructures with the prospect of being part of a large free-trade area with the EU in 2010.

For 1995, the European Investment Bank loaned 617 million ECUs (\$800 million) for infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean basin.

## Envoys drop bid to seal key world trade text

GENEVA (R) — Envoys to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Friday dropped efforts to complete the text of a declaration on global commerce up to the year 2000 to be issued by ministers at a key meeting in Singapore next month.

After days and nights of heated argument, trade officials and diplomats said, the envoys agreed to leave the ministers to decide how to deal with controversial "new issues" like labour standards, investment, competition policy and textile markets.

"This means there is going to be a real ding-dong (battle) between north and south in Singapore, if what we've seen in the last few days here is anything to go on," said one weary WTO envoy.

"What the ministers will have to deal with are the usual flash-point topics," said a trade official.

Ministers from the Geneva-based WTO's 125 member countries and most of the 30 others waiting to be admitted are meeting in the Asian city-state from Dec. 8-13 for the two-year-old body's first ministerial conference.

The declaration, to be issued at the end of the gathering, is supposed to underline their governments' commitment to press ahead with opening up national markets for goods and services into the 21st century.

Trade officials said WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero would now present his own report to the ministers, detailing what had been

agreed and setting out where the disagreements were, leaving them to finalise the declaration.

The decision to hand the problem over to the ministers came in the early hours after WTO ambassadors accepted there was no chance that they could reach accord on their own.

"There are important political issues to be decided, and only the ministers can really take them," said one envoy from a major emerging economy.

The bid to complete the text in Geneva floundered around how the "new issues", which the big industrialised powers are keen on pursuing, textiles and planned future negotiations on agricultural trade should be handled.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Look to your friends today for good ideas instead of experts, since they could be more sympathetic towards you making any mistakes. Be careful in business affairs later this evening so that you don't lose your shirt.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Make sure you keep promises you have made today and don't try to get any new ideas announced. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with close friends and have a wonderful time together.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Put aside that question you've been more than ready to study it fully and determine if it is valid. Attend a nice social event with your loved one later this evening and have a wonderful time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Avoid today an outside fellow associate who is in the mood for a disagreement, which you are not anxious to get yourself involved with at this time. The evening can be romantic for you and your mate so take full advantage.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) More care is needed today in the handling of your practical career activities in order to become successful. There is an opportunity to become more prosperous with the advice of a knowledgeable individual in your corner.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You are anxious today to have a good time, no matter what, however it could be expensive, so forget it and thereby save the money for a later time. This evening will be good for going to recreational activities with close friends.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) Get out to new and interesting sites and pleasures today and don't be hemmed in by home prejudices. Later you can meet with close friends and have some fun together involved in recreational activities so you can relax.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 to November 21) A later today could be disturbing to you however get into some kind of recreation and feel happier and more relaxed for the days ahead. Later this evening will be good for you to stay home with your loved ones.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Try to contact today those who can give you the assistance you need to get any career activities in a successful direction. Forget the so-called financial advisor, which has proven to be unsuccessful and look around for another.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Put aside your own personal desires for the time being today and get busy on more practical affairs, which could result in your success. Later this evening will be good for seeking out knowledgeable persons for their advice.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) If your mate is in a poor mood today, keep quiet and allow the mood to change. Be happy together later this evening when you are satisfied that your loved one is in a more peaceful attitude, which will be pleasant.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Steer clear today of an irate close friend who is looking out for someone to become resentful with. Get into activities later this evening which will bring greater success and prosperity towards your loved ones.

**Birthstone of November:** Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

## Italy will miss EMU deficit target — Prodi

PARIS (AFP) — Italy cannot meet the deficit target to qualify in 1997 as a founder of a single European currency, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi acknowledged here on Friday.

But he said that he would resign if Italy were not among the founders when the single currency was launched on Jan. 1, 1999, implying that the launch conditions should be interpreted in a way which would accept Italy.

In a newspaper interview published hours after his government had agreed to details of a special Euro tax, he said: "In all honesty, we will get to 3.3 per cent (public deficit to output) rather than an exact 3.0 per cent, meaning we will be in the range."

He said: "And then we will examine together with our European colleagues what we need to do."

Both Germany and France "understand that Italy is important, and probably

essential, for monetary union."

Italy's public debt, or accumulated annual public deficits, would also exceed the qualifying limit of 60 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) but "we will be trending downwards", he said.

The Italian debt is about twice the limit, analysts noted. The treaty states that if the debt of a country seeking to qualify exceeds the limit, it must be on a sustainable downward trend and be approaching the target.

Mr. Prodi told the International Herald Tribune that he was ready to take "extraordinary and supplementary steps if that is deemed necessary" to achieve the limit for public deficits laid down in the Maastricht Treaty for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Repeating that he would resign if Italy were not among the founders, he said: "When you put all your chips in one

basket, there are consequences."

The Maastricht Treaty lays down five main conditions which members of the European Union must achieve by the end of 1997 if they are to participate in the launch in 1999.

One of these states that the annual public deficit must not exceed 3.0 per cent of GDP, or must be close to this ratio on a sustainable basis, and that any breach must be temporary.

There is controversy in EU circles about a growing tendency of governments to engineer special increases in taxation, unsustainable cuts in expenditure and to use creative accounting, to dress their books in order to qualify in 1997.

The two main targets of such criticism, which has also been raised by the Bundesbank, the European Monetary Institute and the German finance ministry, are implicitly Italy and France.

## Certificate issue for Lebanese firm a 'success'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The launch of certificates of deposit on the London stock market for Lebanon's largest real estate company Solidere was a "success", according to a Solidere statement released here Thursday.

"The launch was completed on the London Stock Exchange at a price of \$11.5 for each certificate of deposit, which corresponds to \$115 for each share," said the statement.

Each share corresponds to 10 certificates of deposit available to foreign investors.

The statement said after the launch Wednesday the price of the certificates hovered between \$11.5 and \$11.7, and that total demand for the certificates raised \$140 million from international institutional investors.

Merrill Lynch is the lead manager for the issue launched in cooperation with Paribas Capital Markets, Ing Barings, Robert Fleming and Union Bank of Switzerland.

## REUTERS

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.5388	0.5950	1.3030	113.90	1.3475	1515.00	1.7239	5.2245	
DE Mark	0.5950		0.3865	3.4463	74.04	0.6754	984.21	1.2204	3.3854
GB Sterling	1.3030	1.8808		2.1804	191.40	2.2849	2546.41	2.9375	8.7813
CHF Franc	0.7167	1.1900	0.4555		97.33	1.0354	1161.81	132.35	4.0098
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3502	0.5218	1.1437		1.1825	13.30	151.29	4.5865
CAD Dollar	0.7223	1.2342	0.4455	3.9588	1.11		1124.34	127.16	3.6228
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0141	0.3920	0.8859	1332.45	0.8884		11.37	3.4444
FR Franc	0.5950	0.5950	0.3865	3.4463	74.04	0.6754	984.21	1.2204	3.3854
FR Franc	0.1914	0.2944	0.1138	24.9330	21.77	0.2578	32.99	32.9900	

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.35	23.55
WTI	23.55	23.65
Bony	23.35	23.55
Dubai	20.45	20.35
UL Gas	214.00	214.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4104	0.15885	0.34772
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41902	0.16199	0.35477
KW Dinar	3.3462	5.14933	1.99084	4.393
BH Dinar	0.3760	4.09333	1.58228	3.465
CY Pound	2.1447	3.2992	1.2752	2.7345

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	371.4	371.8
Silver (oz's)	4.72	4.74
Platinum (oz's)	374	375
CU (3 Months)	1235	1237
CU (6 Months)	2235	2240
Zinc (3 Months)	1070	1071
Lead (3 Months)	683	684
Ni (3 Months)	16820	16825

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	1M	3M	6M	9M	1Y	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
USD	5.44	5.38	5.41	5.47	5.54				
GBP	6.10	6.30	6.30	6.35	6.44				
JPY	0.10	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.42				
DEM	3.16	3.11	3.14	3.00	2.96				
FRF	3.29	3.36	3.41	3.41	3.44				
CHF	1.99	1.97	1.96	1.81	2.11				
ITL	7.37	7.04	6.82	6.82	6.52				

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	0	Spot
Cocoa (c/lbs)	1416	Spot
Sugar (c/lbs)	308.9	Spot
Wheat (c/lbs)	133	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.53	Spot
Yor (c/lbs)	120	Spot
Barley (c/lbs)	2.24	Spot
Rice (c/lbs)	470	Spot

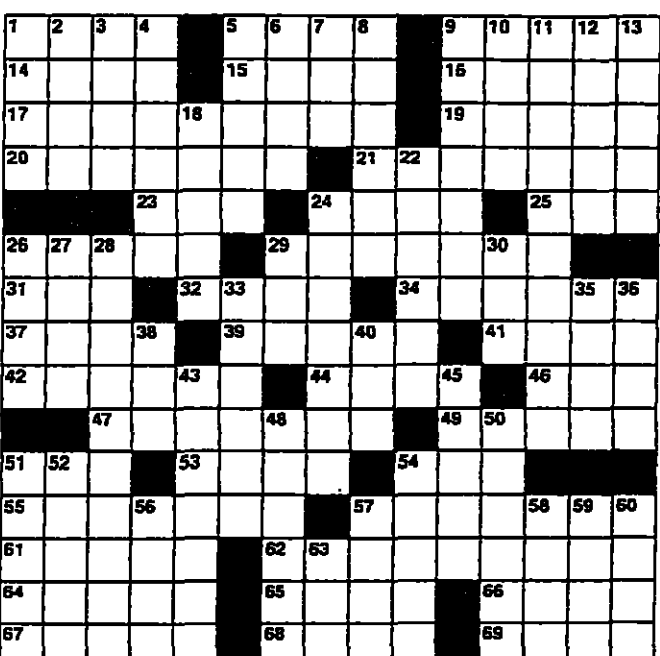
JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Bid	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1878	1.1937
DE Mark	0.4632	0.4655
CH Franc	0.5478	0.5505
FR Franc	0.1367	0.1374
JP Yen	0.8247	0.8278
NL Guilder	0.4128	0.4149
IT Lira	0.4677	0.47

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 18, 1996

## THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Insect feeder
  - Kermil, for one
  - Slightest
  - Sandwich cookie
  - Adress Turner
  - More than adequate
  - Gives a false account
  - Windshield apparatus
  - Clergymen
  - Ms. Dewhurst
  - Reverence
  - Traditional knowledge
  - Privileges: abbr.
  - Corsican patriot
  - Mental attitude
  - Flightless bird
  - Arduous journey
  - Landed property
  - Military letters
  - Deborah of "Melrose Place"
  - Ethereal
  - Scamp
  - Forceful blow
  - Originally called
  - U.S. president
  - Alleviated
  - Greens group: abbr.
  - Pout
  - Appendage
  - Begin again
  - Shunned
  - Certain map
  - Well-known
  - Mountain ridge
  - Declare
  - Blackthorn
  - Persians
  - Part of the US
  - Hardy heroine



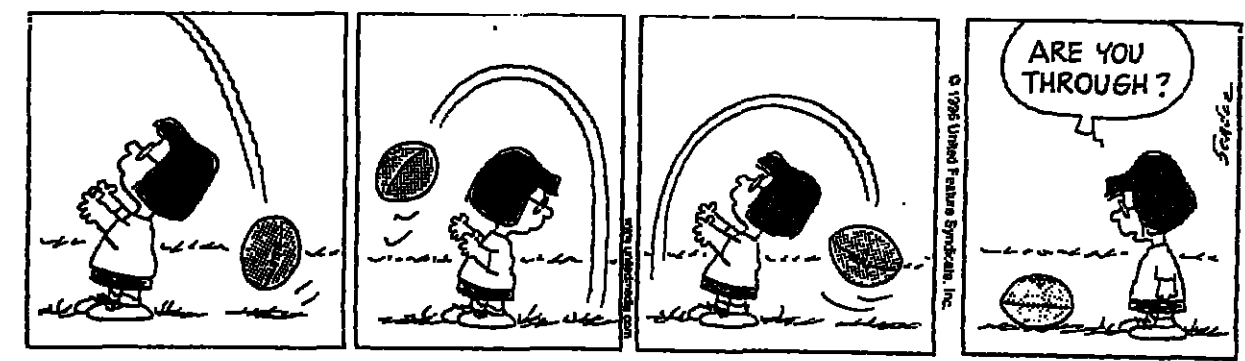
by Vivian O. Collins

GLEAM	BRAG	RIP
RIATA	ROIL	ONES
OBSERVE	PROTOCOL	
ORE	TIME	ROMANY
MALTAISE	WIRE	
JOINT	THE CROWD	
NATANT	RASH	VIA
ORYX	BUIM	MEND
LAP	SPEE	STEREO
OBEY	THE RULES	
ERIN	NOTABLE	
LAPSED	WISH	RAM
SWIM	WITH THE TIDE	
TAKE	AKEE	RIDER
YEN	SIONS	SEEDY

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- DOWN**
- Splendor
  - Solo
  - Not as much
  - Relating to mail service
  - Emergency light
  - Pied Piper's concern
  - Single thing
  - Braggart
  - Unruly
  - Jannings of old films
  - Belongs (to)
  - Frozen rain
  - Marine birds
  - Namely
  - Commands
  - Pleasant
  - Lima's country
  - Cupid
  - Beat decisively
  - Dress size: abbr.
  - Letters on a schedule
  - Hostility
  - Word with frog or house
  - Ogled
  - Greek letter
  - Flamingo
  - Hunter
  - Residents
  - Wading bird
  - Prohibit
  - Surrounded by
  - King of Troy
  - Category
  - Turn away
  - Head of France
  - Grows older
  - Valley
  - God of love
  - Uses henna
  - Holiday time

## Peanuts



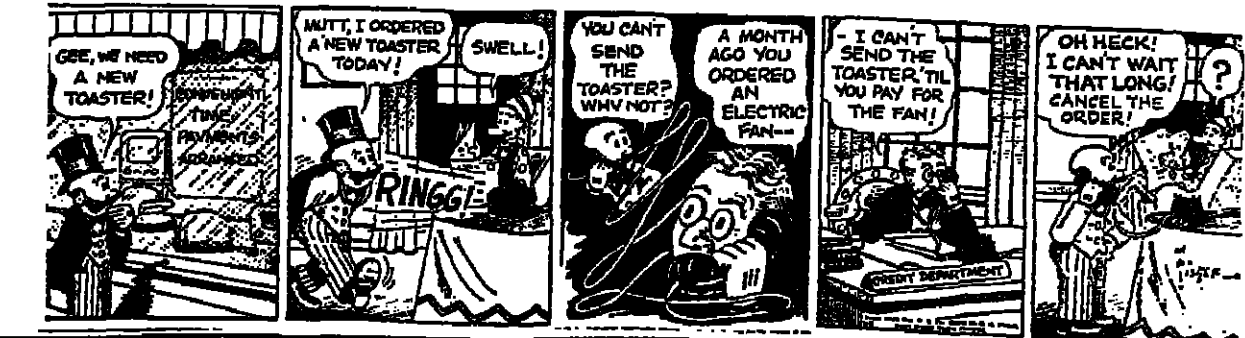
## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## BY BUD FISHER



QUAY — Prices gain more than two per cent in the Jordanian stock market, where investors are buoyed by Iraq's invasion of the United States and the expected increase in Jordanian exports of oil and medicines to the neighboring country.

Friday, investors said investors were also encouraged by the fact that Israel had agreed to a ceasefire with the Palestinians, which would allow the entry of goods into the country.

**Bu**

**Murad ca**

**Jordanian-Pak**

PRESIDENT of the Federation and the Arab League, Murad has described the Jordanian and Pakistani economies as being in a state of stagnation, which is a result of the economic crisis in the Middle East.

He said that the Jordanian economy is in a state of stagnation, which is a result of the economic crisis in the Middle East. He said that the Jordanian economy is in a state of stagnation, which is a result of the economic crisis in the Middle East.

**Jordan's expon**

**languishly this**

JORDANIAN exports of goods to the United States have increased by 10 per cent in the last year, according to a statement by the Jordanian Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The statement said that the Jordanian Ministry of Trade and Industry has been working to improve the country's trade relations with the United States.

**HE BETTER HAL**

I'm trying to improve my health. Which fork should I use to eat my salad?

**TUMBLE**

These four jumbles, one to each square, to form a word.

**YKTS**

**POREA**

**WYIMID**

**OMUVE**







# Agassi opts out of Australian Open and top 10

## Seles, Becker to defend titles

MELBOURNE (R) — U.S. Tennis star Andre Agassi is likely to drop out of the world's top 10 after deciding not to play next year's Australian Open Grand Slam event, Australian tennis officials said on Friday.

Agassi, who won the tournament in 1995, has decided he needs a break from tennis and will begin his 1997 campaign after the January 13-26 Australia Open, tournament director Paul McNamee said in a statement.

World Number Eight Agassi will however play in the International Tennis Federation's \$6.0 million Grand Slam Cup in Munich from December 2-8.

Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) spokesman Steve Casey told reporters he thought Agassi would probably drop out of the top 10 after missing the Australian Open but warned the 26-year-old from Las Vegas would bounce back quickly.

"When his confidence drops off so does his form, but I'm sure he'll be back," Casey said. "It's a pattern in his career that whenever he has poor form, he comes back and is absolutely unbeatable."

Agassi, the gold medalist at this year's Atlanta Olympic Games, has won just two matches since losing to compatriot Michael Chang in the semifinals of the U.S. Open in August.

Last week he withdrew midway through the ATP's year-ending world championship in Hanover with a stomach upset and cold.

He had earlier been fined \$50,000 for failing to attend two pre-event functions and was booted off the court after his straight sets loss to world number one Pete Sampras in the opening match of the tournament. McNamee later told reporters he thought Agassi would have agonised over his decision



Andre Agassi

not to come to Australia and play in the season's opening grand slam tournament.

"For Andre, the last thing he wanted (was) to miss a Grand Slam tournament but, if you look at his results, he has been struggling since the U.S. Open," McNamee said. "There are certain

times in a player's career where he has to bite the bullet. Obviously he wants to take a break to get his game back together," he said.

"I'm encouraged that Andre considers this to be one-off and intends to be back in 1998," he said. Agassi has played in only two Australian

Opens. After winning the tournament in his first appearance in 1995, Agassi was beaten by Chang in the semifinals this year.

Germany's Boris Becker and Monica Seles of the U.S. have both said they will return in 1997 to defend their titles.

## Kanu has heart surgery

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan's Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu has undergone a successful heart operation in the United States, the Italian club announced Thursday night.

The 20-year-old, whose goals guided Nigeria to the Olympic gold medal earlier this year, was found to have a weak aorta valve during a routine medical test just before the Italian season started.

He had just arrived from Ajax Amsterdam, and experts said he would need surgery to have any chance of playing again.

An Inter statement here said there had been "a positive outcome" to a four-hour operation to insert a plastic aorta valve at the Cleveland clinic foundation in Cleveland, Ohio Monday.

Kanu, who has been nominated for the golden ball award, had explicitly requested that no information be released until 48 hours after the operation.

Inter said: "FC Internazionale has been close to the player throughout the period of his hospital confinement before the operation and is close to him now."

"During this period, the coach Roy Hodgson, the senior officials of the club and particularly the president, Massimo Moratti, have never lost contact with the player."

Kanu won the European Cup with Ajax in 1995 before going on to his Olympic triumph in Atlanta and later showed his skills in pre-season friendlies with Inter.

Despite the successful operation, no indication was given as to the chances of Kanu being able to play football again.

Chelsea's Gianluca Viulli has said that Kanu deserves to win the forthcoming golden ball for his achievements in the game — and also as a show of solidarity from world football.



Pascal Baillis (L) of Montpellier and Thierry Henry (R) of Monaco fight for control of the ball during early action in their French league match. Monaco won 1-0 (Reuters photo)

## Milan looking to get back on the rails as Real try to keep lead

PARIS (AFP) — Italian champions AC Milan will look to get their season back on track this weekend, when they face Serie A strugglers Piacenza.

Milan were knocked out of the Italian Cup quarter-finals by Vicenza Wednesday on the away goals rule, while star striker George Weah was provisionally suspended for one Champions League match by UEFA on Thursday after his recent set-to with Porto captain Jorge Costa.

Weah responded by venting his frustration at his team's form, saying everyone in the side had to work together, "otherwise things are going to go wrong."

And the Liberian absolved coach Oscar Tabarez, saying: "It's not the coach's fault if we don't win — he's not playing."

Milan's turmoil has allowed unfancied Vicenza to grab the leadership for the first time in their 94-year history.

And they will stay there if they win at midtable Perugia on Sunday.

Other Serie A sides Roy Hodgson's Inter Milan play Saturday against Cagliari, while newly-crowned world champions Juventus host Bologna.

All of Marcello Lippi's Juventus squad returned from their successful trip to Japan more or less intact after their Intercontinental Cup clash with Argentina's river plate — Frenchman Didier Deschamps has a muscle strain and defender Moreno Torricelli a knee injury, but both should be fit for duty.

Newly-promoted Bologna have propelled themselves to second in the

table and have also reached the semi-finals of the Italian Cup, but a win at Juve could prove a bridge too far.

In Spain, new leaders Real Madrid will look to hang into their hard-won advantage over Barcelona, who succumbed to Bilbao a week ago for their first league defeat.

Real travel to Sporting Gijon on Saturday for a match they should win comfortably. But the visitors will be under severe pressure to perform as any dropped points would open the door once again to their Catalan rivals.

Barcelona do not play until Monday, when they entertain strugglers Extremadura at the Nou Camp.

Bobby Robson's side will be aiming to bounce back in some style against a team who only recently were a third division outfit.

Extremadura have managed just one win to date and Barca should romp home, even if they again have to be satisfied with second spot going into December.

December 7th is the real red-letter day in the Spanish League when the two perennial giants clash head on at Real's Bernabeu Stadium. The winners of that one will be duly installed as the official title favourites.

The bad feeling between Spain's two biggest clubs was further stirred Thursday by a report in El Pais that Barcelona had paid \$2.4 million to Sampdoria of Italy to prevent the transfer to Real of French international Christian Karembeu. Barca officials strenuously denied the story.

Real and Barca have been involved in a tug-of-war for stylish midfielder Karembeu, who said earlier this month he would honour an earlier agreement to sign for Madrid before Barcelona made their eight million-dollar bid.

Elsewhere, third-placed Deportivo La Coruna travel to Seville on Sunday. In the unlikely event of Madrid and Barca both losing, John Toshack's men, yet to lose this season, could snatch pole position.

Seville are unlikely to pose too many problems, given their current precarious position in the bottom six with eight defeats in 14 games.

Germany's premier clash this weekend is a straight first against second battle as Bayern Munich host VfB Stuttgart.

Bayern established a two-point lead last week after

edging Hansa Rostock as Stuttgart succumbed to lowly Duisburg.

But the Bundesliga is a four-horse race this season, with reigning champions Borussia Dortmund standing third level on points with Stuttgart but ahead only on goal difference of a third side on 30 points, Bayer Leverkusen.

Bayern have goalkeeper Oliver Kahn as their primary injury concern as he was suffering from severe cramp in midweek and told reporters he would only take his place "if I'm 100 percent fit."

A further doubt is defender Thomas Helmer, who has a back strain.

Thorsten Legat is meanwhile back for Stuttgart on the left side of midfield after a shoulder injury.

Home advantage should give Giovanni Trapattoni's Bayern the edge, but a draw in the Olympic stadium would let in Dortmund, who take on Hamburg at home. Hamburg have turned in a number of indifferent performances this term to stand just 11th.

And they are unlikely to cause an upset with Dortmund bent on capturing a third title in a row. The champions could welcome back defender Steffen Freund from injury.

Bayer Leverkusen will hope hold off Cologne, who have worked themselves into the top five, and surprise package VfL Bochum will look to bolster their challenge by winning at Sankt Pauli, who now stand above city rivals SV Hamburg.

Elsewhere, a long winter struggle against relegation is already a harsh reality for Hansa Rostock and Arminia Bielefeld, who face off in the eastern German port city.

All the action in France was to be spread across Thursday and Friday with Monaco seeking to oust Paris Saint Germain from top spot Thursday night by winning in Montpellier.

PSG, currently one point clear, were to face Caen on Friday. Fourth-placed Bordeaux were taking on Metz, standing fifth, on Thursday, while Bastia were looking to consolidate their third place by winning at Guingamp on Friday.

## EXAMINATIONS

The British Council would like to announce that entries for May/June 1997 Examinations for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) & the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) will be accepted from Sunday 1 December to Thursday 5 December 1996.

We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Registration time: 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are required to bring with them an official identification and a passport photograph.

Please ask for Miss Diana Muasher

Registered in England as a charity No. 209131

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Las personas que estén interesadas pueden ponerse en contacto con la Embajada durante las horas de oficina de 8,00 a 14,00 horas (excepto los viernes).

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For more details please call 698545

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CINEMA TEL: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA 1

TWISTER

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA 2

PAMELA ANDERSON...in

BARB WIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 699238

PLAZA

SEAN CONNERY...in

THE ROCK

(IN DOLBY STEREO)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

INDEPENDENCE DAY

(IN DOLBY STEREO)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

CONCORD "2"

Whoopie Goldberg...in

BOYS ON THE SIDE

Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Ammoun Theatre & Cinema

TEL: 618274 - 618275

Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled

Five-Star Government

Starring comedians:

Mahmoud Saimeh

& Hussein Tubeishat

play starts 8:30 p.m

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

TEL: 625155

PRESENTS

THE SATIRICAL COMEDY

Arab Human Rights

at 8:30 p.m.

Theatre is closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday

For reservation please call

625155 - 640155

Sport

Nigerians

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The show piece soccer club football team of Nigeria hosted the Star of Egypt in a leg of the championship.

Stars are hoping to win the first Nigerian cup and the first African cup after lifting the 1996 winners Cup and the 1997 Cup.

Zamalek also have the right to place in the world books as overall winners following the return to Cairo on December 13 would give them the fourth Champions Cup.

The finalists also clashed in the 12 years ago when Zamalek winning 2-1 in Lagos.

Cairo and Lagos are the first triumph in a long time.

EMMILLAS (AP) — Emmill, a 155-year-old, was a champion of the world's oldest living champion.

The victory in the trade and commerce game was a surprise to the United States. Thanks to the victory, the United States has a share in the world's oldest living champion.

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## Nigerians seek revenge in African club showpiece

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

The showpiece of African club football takes place Saturday with Shooting Stars of Nigeria hosting Zamalek of Egypt in the first leg of the champions cup final.

Stars are hoping to become the first Nigerian winners of the 32-year-old competition and the first club to complete an African treble after lifting the 1976 Cup-Winners Cup and the 1992 Caf Cup.

Zamalek also have their hearts set on a place in the record books as overall victory following the return match in Cairo on December 13 would give them a record fourth Champions Cup title.

The finalists also clashed in the decider 12 years ago with Zamalek winning 2-0 in Cairo and 1-0 in Lagos to claim their first triumph in the annual event.

A much closer contest is expected this time, especially at the 50,000-capacity liberty stadium in the sprawling south-western city of Ibadan.

Stars boast a 100 per cent record there this year with defending champions Orlando Pirates of South Africa and twice winners JS Kabylie of Algeria among the victims.

Coaches Ahmedu Shaibu and Boniface Doe, a native of Liberia, saw their team score 11 goals in the opening rounds, then struggle to overcome Pirates and Kabylie.

It took a penalty shootout to eliminate Pirates and Nigerian supporters endured 79 tense minutes before David Ogaga scored the goal which ended Algerian resistance.

Stars may possess only one Nigerian international in midfielder Sam Pam, but

the side has developed into a formidable fighting force which will not easily be intimidated, despite the array of talent ranged against them.

Zamalek are coached by German Dieter Werner, who can call on numerous internationals plus Kamel Kaci said, the only Algerian playing club football in Egypt.

Veteran midfielder Ahmed Al-Kass stands out, even in such distinguished company, and will play in Ibadan after missing the semifinal triumph over CS Sfaxien of Tunisia through suspension.

Al-kass is entering the twilight of a career spent largely at Olympic, an unfashionable Alexandria side, and his running off the ball has led to many memorable goals for club and country.

Defender Nabil

Mohamed is less fortunate as he is serving a two-match ban after being shown the red card in Sfax when the North African showdown reached boiling point.

If the Egyptians have a weakness it is temperament with memories still vivid of their goalkeeper kicking a slow-moving Tunisian ball boy during the 1994 showpiece.

The Egyptians battled in previous rounds, having only one goal to spare over modest sunrise from Mauritius and needing a penalty shootout to dispose of less experienced Sfaxien.

Only in the quarterfinals against Moroccan Meknes did Zamalek display the attacking strength that produced three African titles, an honour they share with Canon Yaounde of Cameroon and Hafra of Guinea.

## Edberg finds conditions perfect for final tourney

LONDON (R) — Home advantage, a partisan crowd, a fast indoor court and bags of nostalgia — conditions are perfect for Stefan Edberg's swan song.

The elegant Swede who retires after this weekend's Davis Cup final against France in Malmö, Southern Sweden, is ready to add a fifth Davis Cup triumph to his six Grand Slam wins.

And despite his 30 years and veteran tag, he feels fighting fit, in much better shape than his emotional last tour appearance in Stockholm earlier this month when he lost to compatriot Niklas Kulti.

"I've been playing every day since Stockholm, getting rid of the Niggles," Edberg said. "I feel mentally and physically much better."

Edberg, a consummate serve-and-volleyer, may even be called upon to play doubles as well as singles if Jonas Bjorkman's knee proves troublesome.

Bjorkman was looking much better on, practising without a bandage and ready to partner Kulti on Saturday.

But it is not Edberg nor the doubles duo who ensure Sweden start favourites to take the title for a sixth time.

With two end-of-season titles — at Paris and Stockholm — under his belt and an ATP tour ranking of nine in the world Thomas Enqvist is the man the French underdogs fear most.

"I just hope this form keeps up," Enqvist said.

The lanky 1.91-metre tall 22-year-old appears to have overcome a tendency to fall apart at key moments. His two semifinal wins against the Czech Republic, both of which went to five sets, confirmed his new mental resilience.

Starting as underdogs agrees with the French, however. History is on their side.

They pulled off their first Davis Cup coup way back in 1927, beating the Americans in Philadelphia. On hearing the news in Paris, thousands of revellers took to the streets dancing and singing in celebration.

In 1991 in Lyon few gave Guy Forget and the volatile Henri Leconte much chance against Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras. But they pulled it off and the dancing started all over again.

Neither Cedric Pioline nor Arnaud Boetsch, France's singles players, figure in the ATP's top 20 players but both are hungry for Davis Cup success.

Boetsch was first reserve



France's Arnaud Boetsch (L) looks at French coach Yannick Noah (R) during the last practice session of the Davis cup final in Malmö (Reuters photo)

## Davis Cup finals since 1972

MALMO, Sweden (R) — Davis Cup final results since 1972 and ranking list of previous winners.

year	score	venue
1972 U.S. beat Romania	3-2	Bucharest
1973 Australia beat U.S.	5-0	Cleveland
1974 South Africa beat India	walkover	
1975 Sweden beat Czechoslovakia	3-2	Stockholm
1976 Italy beat Chile	4-1	Santiago
1977 Australia beat Italy	3-1	Sydney
1978 U.S. beat Britain	4-1	Rancho Mirage
1979 U.S. beat Italy	5-0	San Francisco
1980 Czechoslovakia beat Italy	4-1	Prague
1981 U.S. beat Argentina	3-1	Cincinnati
1982 U.S. beat France	4-1	Grenoble
1983 Australia beat Sweden	3-2	Melbourne
1984 Sweden beat U.S.	4-1	Gothenburg
1985 Sweden beat Germany	3-2	Munich
1986 Australia beat Sweden	3-2	Melbourne
1987 Sweden beat India	5-0	Gothenburg
1988 Germany beat Sweden	4-1	Gothenburg
1989 Germany beat Sweden	3-2	Stuttgart
1990 U.S. beat Australia	3-2	St. Petersburg
1991 France beat U.S.	3-1	Lyon
1992 U.S. beat Switzerland	3-1	Fort Worth
1993 Germany beat Australia	4-1	Duesseldorf
1994 Sweden beat Russia	4-1	Moscow
1995 U.S. beat Russia	3-2	Moscow

**Previous Winners**  
U.S. 31, Australia 26, Britain 9, France 7, Sweden 5, Germany 3, Czechoslovakia 1, Italy 1, South Africa 1

in 1991 and says his main aim in life since then has been to enjoy another victory, this time as a player.

"In my playing career it is the Davis Cup that has brought me the greatest joy," he said.

Pioline, whose reputation as a somewhat grouchy Loner, kept him out of the team for several years, is anxious to prove himself

within it now.

Guy Forget, who plays doubles with Lionel Roux described Pioline during the semifinal against Italy as desperate to overturn their 2-0 deficit. "Emotion was showing on his face and you could tell how badly he wanted to win," he said.

Credit for France's new team spirit lies in large part with motivational captain

Yannick Noah, whose larger-than-life presence at the side of the court inspired the players in 1991.

He knows his team inside out and likes to think of them as a family, with all their foibles, strengths and weaknesses.

If they upset the sentimental favourites, it will be Noah leading his brood in the dance at Malmö.

## Cowboys rip Redskins to share division lead

DALLAS (AFP) — Emmitt Smith, bouncing back from an injury, ran for 155 yards and three touchdowns Thursday to give reigning American football champion Dallas a 21-10 victory over Washington.

The victory in the traditional Cowboy home game on the United States Thanksgiving holiday lifted once-struggling Dallas into a share of the national football league's NFC East Division lead with the Redskins at 8-5.

"I don't know if we're back," Smith said. "We definitely have grounds to hold up a solid front if we keep on doing what we are doing. We are going in the right direction."

The Cowboys resurgence followed a loss to the New York Giants last week that had many doubting the club, especially after its poor start. Now Dallas is in position to fight Green Bay and San Francisco for playoff home-field advantage.

"Everybody said we were done. We're not done. We have a lot of fight left in us," said defender Fred Strickland, who recovered a fumble to set up the first Dallas score. It was the first Cowboy touchdown in nine quarters.

Smith ran 29 times after being questionable for the game. He was benched four days earlier after a poor showing.

"Those guys put their faith in me. They blocked their butts off and I was able to



Kansas City Chiefs' Marcus Allen (right) pushes away Detroit Lions' Bennie Blades as he runs for a 35 yard gain, during first quarter play in the Thanksgiving NFL game at the Pontiac Silverdome (Reuters photo)

run where I wanted," Smith said. "I wanted to see how the leg was doing in warmups. I had given the leg a lot of rest and treatment."

The Dallas defense allowed only 46 rushing yards by Washington.

Philadelphia could join Dallas and Washington atop the division by beating the

at Detroit.

The Chiefs benched starting quarterback Steve Bono in favour of backup Rich Gannon, who completed 15 of 18 passes for 120 yards and also ran for 45 yards.

"He has been playing well when he comes in as a replacement," said Marcus Allen, who ran for two touchdowns. "I wanted him to come in with that same attitude and he did."

Allen won the game on a four-yard touchdown drive with 46 seconds to play, boosting his career total to a NFL-record 112. He surpassed the mark she shared with Walter Payton where the game began.

"The run has been killing us," Detroit defender Robert Pocher said.

The Chiefs rose to 9-4 but remain three losses behind NFL overall leader Denver, which takes an 11-1 record into Sunday's home game with Seattle.

Other weekend games find Arizona at Minnesota, Pittsburgh at Baltimore, Chicago at Green Bay, Buffalo at Indianapolis, Cincinnati at Jacksonville, Tampa Bay at Carolina, New England at San Diego, St. Louis at New Orleans, Miami at Oakland and Houston at the New York Jets.

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The University has ten undergraduate schools and colleges, offering more than 250 major and minor concentrations. Boston University also offers MA/MS, MSA/MSA, MD/MD, MPH, PhD programs in Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Management, Computer Sciences, Communications, Social and Natural Sciences, Fine Arts, etc.

Boston University's Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP) offers specially designed intensive English language programs for international students who wish to improve their English. The majority of these students are preparing for study at an American University.

Mr. Lawrence O'Connor, Admissions Representative, will be visiting Amman on December 9 & 10, 1996, and will be available for guidance and counseling for admission to Boston University. Please telephone the Marriott Hotel, Amman at 607607, extension 2035 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Alternatively call Mr. Khalid Rifai at 865922 during working hours.

## GOREN BRIDGE

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Omar Sharif Media Company, Inc.

## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

445 04KQJ7 04J85 4410

The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
10 Pass 2NT Pass  
20 Pass 3C Pass

What do you bid now?

A - Partner's correction does not promise anything of value, nor does it guarantee three hearts. Under the circumstances we would rule out four hearts as a final contract. Our choice would be three no trumps, where as little as the queen of diamonds with partner might be enough and our 150 honors will soften the blow should the contract fail.

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

44KQ765 0332 046 444

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 1A Pass  
20 Pass 2A Pass  
40 Pass 7?

A - Partner can hardly have less than six almost solid hearts and the ace of diamonds for this auction, which leaves room for a high club honor as well. You have a superb hand for partner, and slam should be laydown as long as you don't have two fast club losers. Jump to five hearts, asking partner to bid on with control of the unbid suit.

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

44K5 05 04J8543 44KQ

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1A Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 2 Pass  
40 Pass 7?

A - If partner has only one heart stopper and no ace of diamonds, there is no trump could be a terrible mistake. You can stress the unbalanced nature of your hand by ask-

ing a forcing jump to three diamonds. Should partner persevere with three no trumps, you will have arrived at your final goal, but you can accept that with a greater degree of comfort. If three diamonds is only invitational in your methods, we suggest you make a slightly fancy rebid of two spades to set up a game force.

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

44KQ5 0485 040542 44

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1A Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 2 Pass  
40 Pass 7?

A - With only nine points in high cards and no fit opposite a partner who has announced a balanced minimum, where would you like to go? Pass, and let partner play on what should be a comfortable contract.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

445 041093 047 44K1065

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 1A Pass  
20 Pass 2 Pass  
40 Pass 7?

A - Partner is expecting another bid from you, so don't pass in this awkward situation. The only action that makes any sense is to raise partner with your doubleton honor. Bid three diamonds. That does not preclude you from finding a heart fit if it exists.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

445 076 04093 44K9874

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

A - Throw away the point-count book. You are bringing partner five or six tricks, so he should have play for three no trump. Bid it.

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## Court endorses Shin Bet torture as legal

TEL AVIV (AP) — The supreme court accepted Friday claims by the Shin Bet security service that shackling a suspected militant, depriving him of sleep and placing a sack over his head were legal means of interrogating him, Israeli radio said.

Both Israel and army radios said Atef Abu Sirhan, from East Jerusalem, was arrested by the Shin Bet 10 days ago. His case became public Friday after his attorney, Leah Tsemel, demanded the court intervene to stop the use of force on her client and to allow her to meet with him.

Mr. Abu Sirhan is suspected of unspecified terrorist activities as a member of the Islamic Jihad organisation, responsible for several suicide attacks against Israel, the reports said.

The court accepted a claim by the Shin Bet that Ms. Tsemel could not meet with her client because of the nature of the investigation, army radio said.

Ms. Tsemel protested the methods of questioning her client, saying they "are likely to drive him out of his mind."

The reports said the state attorney denied claims that Mr. Abu Sirhan was violently shaken, a method used by the Shin Bet in extreme circumstances to extract information. But he did not deny that interrogators were using the other methods, including sleep deprivation, placing a bag over his head, playing loud music and shackling him in uncomfortable positions.

"Definitely all these means are meant to break him at least and also to damage him bodily in order to extract information that is his right not to reveal," Ms. Tsemel protested.

The supreme court was to hold another discussion on the issue next week, to reevaluate the situation. Friday's discussion came in the wake of two recent supreme court hearings on petitions by other Palestinians being held by Israel.

In both cases, the court allowed the Shin Bet to use force in questioning the suspects, after finding that they had information that might help prevent an attack against Israel.

Human rights organisations have protested Israel's allowance of the use of force against militants, claiming it is tantamount to torture. But Shin Bet arguments have been accepted by the court as justification for the use of force.

An Israeli Arab said on Friday he had been clubbed and beaten by a border policeman in the latest in a string of incidents of alleged Israeli police brutality against Arabs.

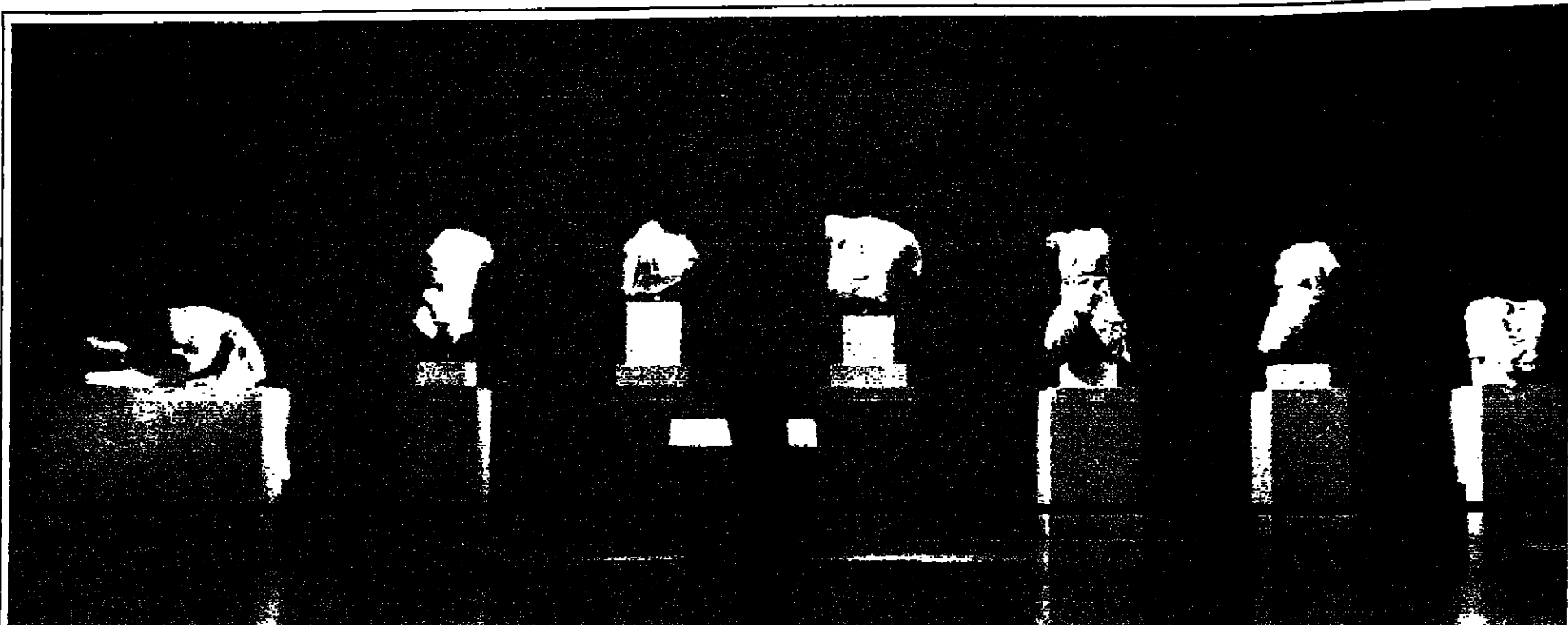
An amateur video broadcast worldwide last week showing two Israeli policemen beating Palestinians at a West Bank checkpoint placed abuse of Arabs by the paramilitary border police who patrol Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, under close scrutiny.

Nasser Tarabiyeh said he was clubbed with a pistol during a dispute with a policeman near the Arab town of Saknin in northern Israel last week.

"He hit me on the head with his pistol... on the head, all over my body, arms and back. I was dealt all sorts of violence," Mr. Tarabiyeh told Israeli radio.

He said the policeman, also an Israeli Arab, fired two shots from his pistol before fleeing when a passerby approached.

The radio said the border policeman was under investigation by a justice ministry department which probes police misdeeds.



'ELGIN MARBLES': A visitor to London's British Museum looks at a display of the "Elgin marbles." The statues are part of a large collection of marble statues and friezes taken from the Parthenon in Athens by Lord Elgin, a British diplomat, in the early 19th century. Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis said last week that his country will launch a new campaign to reclaim the marbles, the return of which has been a long-standing Greek demand (Reuters photo)

## Baghdad announcement relieves holders of Iraqi dinars in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians holding millions in Iraqi dinars heaved a sigh of relief on Friday following an Iraqi official denial of rumours that the Baghdad government intended to withdraw some banknotes.

"We have been very worried over the prospect that Iraq could simply decide to declare part of its currency null and void" as it did three years ago, said a Jordanian speculator, who, like others who have invested in the Iraqi currency, did not want to be identified.

"We hope we could trust the Iraqi announcement (on Thursday) that (the Central Bank of Iraq) has no plan to adopt such a move," added the man.

Hundreds of Jordanians have invested in Iraqi dinars in anticipation of a recovery of the currency when the international sanctions on Iraq are lifted. The Central Bank of Jordan has repeatedly cautioned against speculation in the Iraqi currency, particularly after the 1993 cancellation of 25-dinar notes by the Baghdad government cost Jordanian speculators tens of millions of dinars.

However, market experts say, the temptation is too strong, given that many could become overnight millionaires if the hypothesis runs true and the Iraqi dinar gains its pre-crisis rate of between four and five dinars to the dollar when the sanctions are lifted.

The Iraqi currency has gained around 40 per cent in the Jordanian money market since Baghdad announced its acceptance of an oil-for-food accord with the United Nations. In Baghdad, the embattled currency gained about 50 per cent against the American dollar before slipping a little, reports from the Iraqi capital said.

In a statement issued Thursday, the Central Bank of Iraq said: "The national currency will not undergo any changes nor will any categories of banknote be withdrawn contrary to rumours put about by speculators."

A Jordanian dinar fetched between 1,200 and 1,250 Iraqi dinars in Baghdad on Thursday. In Amman the rate was between 1,300 and 1,350 although buyers of the currency were few.

The Iraqi dinar fell back to 880 to the dollar on the streets of Baghdad Thursday, compared with 750 Wednesday. The Iraqi announcement of its acceptance of the oil-for-food deal came on Monday. Prior to the announcement, an American dollar was worth 1,650 dinars.

Thursday's Central Bank of Iraq statement said fluctuations in the value of the dinar was down to "rumours started by speculators each time the economy or the Iraqi dinar experiences an improvement."

The bank called on businessmen to deal only with official moneychangers who exchange at a rate only slightly below the market rate and way above the official bank rate of 450 dinars to the dollar.

In Amman, moneychangers have also started accepting the 25-dinar notes cancelled by the Iraqi government in 1993, obviously in anticipation of a reinstatement of the currency, market sources said. "Some of the money is being sent to northern Iraq, where (the so-called) Swiss notes are still valid," said one source, noting that Iraqis were now free to travel in and out of parts of the north, which remains under the control of dissident Kurdish factions.

The 1993 cancellation of the 25-dinar notes was coupled with a three-day grace for Iraqis within the country to change the scrapped notes at Iraqi banks. The borders of the country remained sealed off to prevent the entry of the voided currency held outside.

However, the notes remained valid in northern Iraq, where anti-Baghdad Kurdish groups held sway. But the situation appeared to have changed when one of the dissident groups joined camps with Baghdad against another. As a result, Iraq lifted a de facto blockade on the north and allowed the free movement of goods and people in and out of the dissident territory. This in turn, raised questions over the validity as well as the exchange value of the 25-dinar notes in areas controlled by the Baghdad government.

## Treasury lost JD96 million because of corruption and abuse, Audit Bureau says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Corruption, mismanagement and abuse of authority last year have cost the treasury more than JD96 million, according to an Audit Bureau's report.

The report said violations included embezzlement, mismanagement, misuse of funds, abuse of authority, and oversight, according to an article published in the Arabic daily al Rai of Thursday.

Citing examples of the Audit Bureau findings, the article said the treasury has incurred a loss of JD55.3 million as a result of wrong calculations and JD868,000 because of inadvertent errors. On the abuse of office, the report said a minister had put eight official cars for his personal use, thus costing the treasury more than JD5,800 in fuel.

The report added JD7.19 million was embezzled by civil servants. The bureau's report said 18 ministries, seven public institutions, and four universities were involved in the violations.

The Ministry of Supply topped the list a loss of JD63 million, followed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation with JD6 million. The Ministry of Education with JD3 million, and the Ministry of Public Works with JD1.7 million.

Other ministries involved were the Ministry of Energy with JD1 million, the ministry of post and communications, the Ministry of Finance with JD640,000 each, the ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice with JD500,000 each, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Information with JD200,000 and JD51,000 respectively. The report said the Ministry of Interior incurred a loss of JD33,000.

Other ministries included in the report were the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Awqaf.

Among public corporations and institutions, the Cooperative Organisation topped the list with JD10 million worth of violations, followed by Jordan Cooperative Bank with JD5 million. Greater Amman Municipality with JD2.9 million, the Jordan Investment Corporation with JD640,169, the Department of the Chief Islamic Justice with JD75,000 and the Jordan Economic and Social Co-operation for Retired Se-rvicemen (JESORS) with JD20,000.

The Jordan University of Science and Technology and the University of Jordan were found to be involved in violations amounting to JD130,000 and JD123,000 respectively. Other institutions involved were the University of Jordan Hospital, Yarmouk University, Muatah University, the Royal Cultural Centre, and the Development and Employment Fund, the report said.

Elaborating on mismanagement and corruption at the various ministries, the report said the Audit Bureau detected 29 violations at the Ministry of Supply with a loss of more than JD63 million. The report blamed this on the ministry's failure to adopt a proper formula to calculate the government's subsidy for wheat. While it charged JD14.816 per tonne of wheat for some companies, it charged only JD65 per tonne for others. This has resulted in JD54,996,768 worth of losses, the report added.

The ministry has also lost JD4 million as a result of the failure by the Maritime Transport Company to adhere to its agreement with the ministry to transport 100,000 tonnes of barley from Latakia and Tartous seaports.

Other reasons include the ministry's failure to collect import revenues, stamps and additional duties from local suppliers of flour, and the differences in subsidies for fodder, the report said. The report said 272 violations were discovered

worth JD640,000 were detected in the Finance Ministry in 1995. At the Ministry of Agriculture 47 violations worth JD200,000 were detected. The report said the minister of Agriculture has put eight official cars to his personal use, thus costing the treasury more than JD5,181 in fuel from January 1994 to March 1995.

The report also blamed the ministry for failure to collect fines from violators of the forests and range land regulations, and the appointment of staff on project funds, contrary to provisions of the budget law for 1995.

— Seven violations involving JD1.7 million at the Ministry of Public Works.

— Nine violations (JD200,000) at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

— Fifty-nine violations (JD500,000) at the Health Ministry.

— Twenty violations (JD1 million) at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

— Sixty-five violations (JD6million) at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

— Forty-one violations at the Ministry of Transport and its departments.

The report said Royal Jordanian (RJ) failed to adopt clear criteria approved by its board when selecting its bankers and this had led to a loss of more than JD200,000 which the national carrier incurs every year as a result of dealing with a Paris bank. The report said that external procurements at RJ stations take place without obtaining the prior approval of the board.

The report noted that the liabilities of most RJ agents exceed by far the amounts of their guarantees. It also blamed RJ's losses on its failure to collect its debt, and the failure of its agents to abide by their agreements with the national airline.

SANTIAGO (R) — Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet told officers they should avoid gossiping about the military, watch their drink and not wear sideburns. "When you are in embassies and they talk about the army you must leave the conversation immediately as there are people who say whatever they like about your commander-in-chief," he told officers at a ceremony to award emblems to 70 unit commanders. "You must explain clearly that you are leaving because of the nonsense they are talking," said the 81-year-old general. He said officers and their families also must make sure to keep up their appearances in Chile or abroad. "You mustn't wear sideburns in the centre of London. You must also take great care of your wife and children," Mr. Pinochet said.

The current constitution, approved in 1989, allowed multiparty politics after decades of single party rule. General elections are due to be held in the first half of next year and the new constitution would create a second chamber of parliament.

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian voters overwhelmingly endorsed a draft constitution that will ban Islamic political parties and boost the president's powers. Interior Minister Mostefa Ben Mansour said Friday.

The draft was approved by 85.81 per cent of the 13.1 million people who took part in Thursday's referendum. Mr. Ben Mansour said, adding that turnout reached 79.80 per cent despite the threat of violence by militant rebels.

"The vote took place in very satisfactory conditions," the minister said. "The first lesson to be drawn from this is the serenity and enthusiasm that marked this day as well as the campaign."

Opposition parties had called for a boycott of the poll which they said amounted to giving President Liamine Zeroual a blank cheque to impose a dictatorship. One opposition leader, Said Sadi of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, denounced the official figure, saying voter turnout was no more than 35 per cent.

Unconfirmed reports said that extremists carried out a series of attacks Thursday away from the capital to intimidate the population and several attempts were thwarted. Sources said that several people were injured in a bomb blast in Baraki, a suburb south of Algiers.

## Happy marriage of McDonald's and service stations

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese unit of McDonald's Corporation said Friday it would open fast food shops at about half of Nippon Oil Company's 10,000 service stations across Japan by 2006, Nippon Oil, Japan's largest oil distributor, requested the tie-up to attract more customers to its outlets, a McDonald's spokesman said. Under the agreement, McDonald's Co. (Japan) will open four or five outlets on a trial basis next year, and begin expansion the following year, he said. The planned new outlets will be directly operated by McDonald's Japan in the initial stage, but some of the subsequent stores will be operated by service station staff on a franchise basis, the spokesman said.

Journalists should live in shanties — court

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's supreme court told journalists they should live in shanties rather than government-allotted houses if they believed in press freedom, a newspaper reported Friday. Judges Kuldip Singh and L.L. Hansaria said the journalists should be prepared "to live in (huts) rather than seeking government accommodation."

The Hindustan Times quoted them as saying Thursday: "The journalists should not ask for favours from the government in the form of accommodation or any other facility if they are committed to the freedom." The court statement follows a row between journalists and the authorities over the allocation of houses. The Indian government allocates a small number of houses meant for civil servants to journalists in New Delhi. The facility has been seen as a way of manipulating pliant journalists.

Albania awards Mother Teresa top honour

TIRANA (R) — Albania awarded ailing Mother Teresa its top "Honour of the Nation" order for her lifelong dedication to the poor, the presidential office said in a statement on Albania's national day. "We give the award to the most renowned Albanian of all times, the living saint of our nation, Mother Teresa," Albanian President Sali Berisha said in a speech celebrating her award. "It is a sign of the deep gratitude the Albanian nation nurtures for the missionary of God, the symbol of love and hope, its honour and pride," he added. The 86-year-old Roman Catholic nun, born of Albanian parents as Gonxhe Bojaxhi, is in critical condition in an Indian heart clinic. Called the "Saint of the Gutters," she began work in the slums of Calcutta in 1949 and won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

No small talk, sideburns, Pinochet tells officers

Algerians back ban on Islamists

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Cabinet approval

QADAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet approved the text of the budget for 1997 to 1998. The budget is expected to be presented to the parliament on Monday. The Cabinet also approved the text of the new Labour Law, which will be presented to the parliament on Monday. The Cabinet also approved the text of the new Labour Law, which will be presented to the parliament on Monday.

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